



SPIRITUAL CHARACTER

PART 011 - CHRISTIAN GROWTH
MAKING CHRIST THE FOCAL POINT OF OUR LIVES

1

I. WHAT IS SPIRITUAL GROWTH?

2

I. WHAT IS SPIRITUAL GROWTH?

Philippians 2:12- 13,
“Work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, to will and to act according to His good purpose.”

3

I. WHAT IS SPIRITUAL GROWTH?

A. The Ladder or Stairs

Many believers view spiritual growth as a ladder or as a set of stairs that we climb. When we are really spiritual, we consider ourselves to be high on the ladder. However, when we are not spiritual, we are low on the ladder.



4

I. WHAT IS SPIRITUAL GROWTH?

B. The Dying of the old self

Others view spiritual growth as a process of exchanging the old sinful self for the new man created in Christ. As the old man dies, the new man comes into being. When that happens, the person grows spiritually.



5

QUESTION:

Discuss how these 2 illustrations can be helpful and unhelpful

6

II. THE ROLE OF THE CROSS IN SPIRITUAL GROWTH

A. Growing in Knowledge of God's Holiness

Jer 9:23,24

“Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom or the strong man boast of his strength or the rich man boast of his riches, but let him who boasts boast about this: that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth; for in these I delight, declares the Lord”.

In John 17:3 Jesus says,

“Now this is eternal life: that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You sent.”

7

II. THE ROLE OF THE CROSS IN SPIRITUAL GROWTH

The Westminster Catechism puts it like

this:

Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him for ever.

8

QUESTION:

Discuss times where you have experienced this growing sense of the Holiness of God

9

II. THE ROLE OF THE CROSS IN SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Php 3:8

"I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord".

10

QUESTION:

How can we increase our revelation of His Holiness?

11

II. THE ROLE OF THE CROSS IN SPIRITUAL GROWTH

B. Learning to Recognise Our Sin

Paul's Progress:

- In AD 55 Paul described himself as "the least of the apostles" (1Co 15:9).

12

II. THE ROLE OF THE CROSS IN SPIRITUAL GROWTH

B. Learning to Recognise Our Sin

Paul's Progress:

- In AD 55 Paul described himself as "the least of the apostles" (1Co 15:9).
- Later in AD 60 Paul describes himself as "the least of all saints" (Eph 3:8).

13

II. THE ROLE OF THE CROSS IN SPIRITUAL GROWTH

B. Learning to Recognise Our Sin

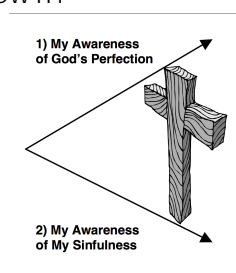
Paul's Progress:

- In AD 55 Paul described himself as "the least of the apostles" (1Co 15:9).
- Later in AD 60 Paul describes himself as "the least of all saints" (Eph 3:8).
- Still later, in the end of his life in AD 64, he describes himself as "chief of all sinners" (1Ti 1:15).

14

II. THE ROLE OF THE CROSS IN SPIRITUAL GROWTH

C. The Resulting Gap



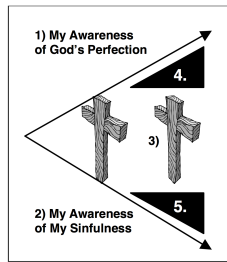
15

III. HINDRANCES TO CHRISTIAN GROWTH

16

III. HINDRANCES TO CHRISTIAN GROWTH

- A. Phariseeism—the problem of pride.



17

QUESTION:

What effect do those two wedges have on us?

18

III. HINDRANCES TO CHRISTIAN GROWTH

Matthew 7:3-5

Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye', when there is the log in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.

19

III. HINDRANCES TO CHRISTIAN GROWTH

- A. Phariseeism—the problem of pride.
- B. Despair—Lack of belief

20

QUESTION:

Are there any ways in which you identify with / recognise that feeling in yourself? Discuss how that makes you feel.

21

II. HINDRANCES TO CHRISTIAN GROWTH

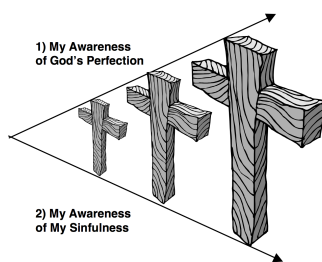
Heb 10:14

For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

22

III. HINDRANCES TO CHRISTIAN GROWTH

- A. Phariseeism—the problem of pride.
- B. Despair—Lack of belief
- C. The Answer: The Cross must grow



23



SPIRITUAL CHARACTER

PART 011 - CHRISTIAN GROWTH
MAKING CHRIST THE FOCAL POINT OF OUR LIVES

24