

SOME ADVICE

Before you leave this lesson, make a strong resolution that you are going to do all you can to grow quickly into a strong, mature Christian. Here are some of the things that can help you.

1. Feed your spirit every day with prayer and Bible reading.
2. Keep a spiritual journal by writing down new insights and the progress you experience in your new life.
3. Attend church services in a Bible-believing church where God's Word is preached.
4. Make friends with mature Christians who can give you counsel and encouragement along the way.
5. Check on yourself once in awhile. Ask yourself, "How have I grown in the last week, month, year?"
6. At every stage, try to determine what you need to do to rise to the next level in your spiritual growth. Set specific goals for yourself.
7. Remember that no matter what spiritual heights you may reach there will always be room to grow some more.
8. Spiritual maturity carries with it the responsibility to be helpful to those who are less mature.
9. Take Jesus alone as your example to follow.
10. Keep your eyes fixed on the goal. Never look back.

**Lesson Seven
Spiritual Growth**

One of the great possibilities of the Christian life is endless spiritual growth. The Christian life never should become static. We must always be moving ahead to new levels of experience. We would become alarmed in the case of an infant that did not grow. It should be equally alarming when a babe in Christ does not grow. If we stop growing we are in danger of losing our relationship to Christ. In this lesson we will look at some of the ways we can grow, and things that will help us move ahead in our relationship with Christ.

AREAS OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Look up each Scripture reference below and write after it the area of spiritual growth that it suggests.

- Jn. 15:2 _____
- Eph. 4:15 _____
- 1 Thes. 3:12 _____
- Heb. 6:1 _____
- Rom. 12:2 _____
- 2 Pet. 3:18 _____

**THE MEANS OF GROWTH
(The things that help us grow)**

Look up the Scripture references and write after it what it suggests will help us grow.

- 1 Pet. 2:2 _____
- Psa. 5:3 _____
- Psa. 119:147 _____
- 2 Pet. 1:5-9 _____
- Jas. 4:8a _____

After each Scripture reference write the suggested indication of spiritual immaturity.

- 1 Cor. 3:1 _____
- Heb. 5:12 _____
- Eph. 4:14 _____

CHILDISH THINGS

In 1 Cor. 13:11, Paul exhorts us to "put away childish things." What do you think are some of the childish things he may have had in mind?

THINK LIKE ADULTS

In 1 Cor. 14:20, Paul exhorts us to "stop thinking like children ... in your thinking be adults." What are some of the characteristics of the ways adults should think? _____

THE IDEALS OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Read Eph. 3:16-19 and write down some of the potential results of spiritual growth that Paul mentions in this passage.

- (1) _____
- (2) _____
- (3) _____
- (4) _____
- (5) _____
- (6) _____

What ideals does Paul challenge us with in Eph. 4:13? _____

Can you think of ways we can be perfect as our heavenly Father is perfect? (Mt. 5:48)

TRAINING

What does the parable in Mt. 25:14-30 tell us we should do with the abilities God has given us?

In order to be godly, what does a person need to do? (1 Tim. 4:7)

What does a person need to do in order to be "approved" of God? And, what is an evidence of a workman that does not need to be ashamed? (2 Tim. 2:15)

There are several symbols in the Bible of a fruitful, growing Christian. In your own words, describe the message of the symbol.

"a tree planted by streams of water" (Psa. 1:3): _____

"...like a palm tree" (Psa. 92:12): _____

"... like a cedar of Lebanon" (Psa. 92:12): _____

"the first gleam of dawn" (Prov. 4:18): _____

BEARING FRUIT

What is necessary to do sometimes to make a branch be more fruitful? (Jn. 15:2) _____

How do you think people will recognize that you are a Christian? (Mt. 7:16) _____

What is the secret of "bearing much fruit?" (Jn. 15:5) _____

What is the result of "bearing much fruit?" (Jn. 15:8) _____

For what does Paul give thanks in his second letter to the Thessalonians? (2 Thes. 1:3) _____
