

## GROWING CLOSER TO GOD

How do we grow closer to God?

### 1. DO I REALLY WANT TO GROW?

*Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness for they will be filled (Matthew 5:6)*

He's saying "If you really want to grow then you will be satisfied." If you hunger and thirst for a right relationship with God, then you will get it but if you're half hearted about it then don't expect much in return.

### 2. AM I CERTAIN I'M SAVED BY GOD'S GRACE?

Before you can make any progress in the Christian faith you must be 100% certain that our salvation is secure – and you can be.

*I tell you the truth. Whoever hears what I say and believes on the one who sent Me has eternal life. That person will not be judged guilty but has already left death and entered life (John 5:24)*

*You began your life in Christ through the Spirit. Are you now trying to make it complete by your own power? That is foolish (Galatians 3:3)*

### 3. WILL I DISCIPLINE MYSELF FOR GROWTH?

*For God did not give us a spirit of timidity but a spirit of power and love and of a sound mind (2 Timothy 1:7)*

*Spend your time and energy in training yourself for spiritual fitness. Physical exercise has some value but spiritual exercise is more important. It promises a reward in both this life and the next (2 Timothy 4:7-8)*

There are some spiritual muscles in your life that God wants to develop and, with just a little bit of discipline for the purpose of godliness, you'll see some things develop in your life that you never imagined possible.

### 4. HOW WILL I RESPOND TO TESTS, TRIALS AND TEMPTATIONS?

*Count it all joy when you face trials of various kinds because God is using them to produce patience and endurance and hope and faith (James 1:2-4)*

It's one thing to grow old as a Christian, it is quite another to grow up.

### 5. WILL I DEVELOP RELATIONSHIPS THAT STRENGTHEN MY GROWTH?

*Jesus grew in favor with God and man (Luke 2:52).*

*Encourage the believers to stay close to the Lord whatever the cost (Acts 11:23)*

Be an encouragement to one another not an opponent.

It's going to cost you to grow closer to God. It may cost you time, money, friendships, your job or any number of things, but if we want to make progress in the faith we must make growing closer to God a priority.