

It's Time to Grow Up

NorthRidge Church

Dr. M. David Myers

March 3, 2019

"We are not meant to remain as children at the mercy of every chance wind of teaching . . . Instead we are meant to hold firmly to the truth in love, and to grow up in every way into Christ . . ." Ephesians 4:14 (Ph)

### Unmasking Spiritual Growth

"But **grow in the grace** and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." 2 Pt. 3:18

Growth is not ... \_\_\_\_\_ / Nor is it \_\_\_\_\_

Growth is ... \_\_\_\_\_ / And it will require \_\_\_\_\_

"You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to **put off your old self**, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to **be made new in the attitude of your minds**; and to **put on the new self**, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness." ... Ephesians 4:22-24

#### I. ~~Put Off~~ (Let Go of) The \_\_\_\_\_

Cp. Matthew 9:17; Hebrews 13:9; Romans 8:34

- Trying to grow by \_\_\_\_\_
- Trying to grow by \_\_\_\_\_
- Trying to grow by \_\_\_\_\_

#### II. ~~Put On~~ (Accept)THE \_\_\_\_\_

Cp. 2 Corinthians 5:17; Colossians 3:3

- ✓ We don't have to \_\_\_\_\_ our new life.
- ✓ We don't have to \_\_\_\_\_ our new life
- ✓ We do have to \_\_\_\_\_ our new life.

#### III. Be \_\_\_\_\_ ... Mind ... Heart ... Life

Cp. Romans 12:2; Galatians 3:3

### 2 QUESTIONS

Why does it take so long?

Where do I get started? \_\_\_\_\_

Cp. Philippians 1:6; Philippians 2:13; Ephesians 4:22-24

## Truth for Life

For the week of March 3, 2019

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. What were the significant points of your growth as you grew to an adult? Can you identify any factors that affected your growth (positively or negatively)? Have you had any significant growth elements after becoming an adult?

2. As we have unmasked spiritual growth, we have come to understand that God is the one who grows us. A potential hindrance to His power and motivation working in our lives is the sinful and self-centered nature we are all born with. Read Galatians 5:16-26.

When we live for the flesh, what kind of behaviors can we expect?

When we live by the Spirit, what kind of behaviors can we expect?

How do we choose to live by the Spirit? What do we need to do to accomplish this for the whole of life, not just a moment or 2 during the week?

3. Read the following verses that teach us about spiritual growth.

Colossians 1:9-10      1 Peter 1:5-8      2 Timothy 3:16-17  
Psalm 1:1-3      Hebrews 5:12-14      Ephesians 4:15-16

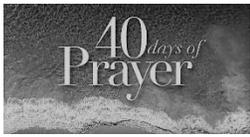
What do they teach us about spiritual growth? Any principles? How could these verses assist you in your spiritual growth?

4. Here are some more challenging questions that will be great to ponder among your small group.

- a. If you could change just one thing about your walk with God, what would it be? How can you begin to change it?
- b. How can a believer know whether an outward matter is conformity with the world or just culturally and spiritually neutral?
- c. What criteria can we apply to determine whether a matter not specified in the Bible is worldly or godly?

### Memory Verse

*If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. – John 15:7*



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## Unmasking Spiritual Growth

*"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." 2 Pt. 3:18*

Growth is not ... **How Many** / Nor is it **Automatic**

Growth is ... **How Much** / And it will require **Intentionality**

*"You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to **put off your old self**, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to **be made new in the attitude of your minds**; and to **put on the new self**, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness." ... Ephesians 4:22-24*

### I. ~~Put Off~~ (Let Go of) The **Old**

Cp. Matthew 9:17; Hebrews 13:9; Romans 8:34

- Trying to grow by **Doing Good**
- Trying to grow by **Keeping the Rules**
- Trying to grow by **Feeling Bad**

### II. ~~Put On~~ (Accept)THE **New**

Cp. 2 Corinthians 5:17; Colossians 3:3

- ✓ We don't have to **Achieve** our new life.
- ✓ We don't have to **Keep** our new life
- ✓ We do have to **Put On** our new life.

### III. Be **Renewed** ... Mind ... Heart ... Life

Cp. Romans 12:2; Galatians 3:3

## 2 QUESTIONS

Why does it take so long?

Where do I get started? **Get to Know God**

Cp. Philippians 1:6; Philippians 2:13; Ephesians 4:22-24

1. What were the significant points of your growth as you grew to an adult? Can you identify any factors that affected your growth (positively or negatively)? Have you had any significant growth elements after becoming an adult?

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