



# Pillar Truths Study Series

## Spiritual Growth

### Psalm 51: 10-12

We need steadfast & willing spirits-- just to be sustained

### I. Introduction

- Spirituality is a 'Life Force' (Genesis 1:1-2)
- All of life 'grew' from Spirit
- God expects to see us grow; He is in Spirit....  
So he primarily relates to Spiritual Growth

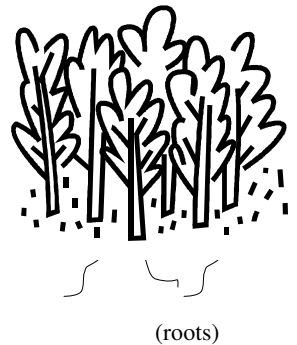
**Isaiah 61:1-3** Spiritual growth is planted by God: Oaks of righteousness for His display

**Jeremiah 17: 5-8** (v8) We can be like trees planted by the water, soaking in nutrients & energy



- The Bible often uses the splendor of trees to relate to spirituality
- Our growth enables prosperity
- We need deep roots, as trees have deep roots; roots grow first
- The alternative is to be like bushes, in the wasteland

- Q) Do you feel like a green tree, that's growing?
- Q) Is your family or small group like a small forest?
- Q) What type of forest does God expect to see in our Church?
- Q) Who in the forest are you spiritually 'rooted' with?





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#### II. Motivation for (Spiritual) Growth

- Spiritual growth is a personal matter...YOU have got to WANT to grow.
- Benefits of God's Spirit are proportional to the positive growth of your own Spirit!

##### A. It's Do... or Die

**2 Peter 1:3-5+ (v5)** You must ADD to your faith, ADD to your goodness...or be ineffective  
**2 Peter 3:18** Specifies you must GROW in Grace and Knowledge



OR



- Plant a tree. What does it look like in 5 years? Do the roots change?
- The Bible in Revelation speaks about 'Hot' or 'Cold'
- Life Forces are dynamic- keep spirits positive (Galatians 5:16-23)
- Growth not optional, for a healthy Christian; decline is the other option

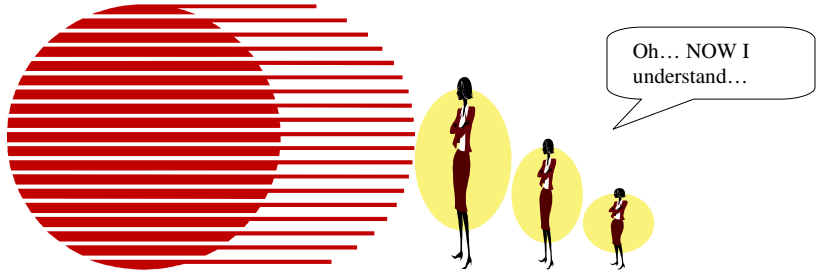
##### B. You grow, by being "In the Know" 1 Corinthians 2: 6-16

- It requires spiritualism and spiritual growth to be in touch with God's secret wisdom.
- God's spirit is big, deep you won't outgrow it!
- Through growth, you are free from judgment
- You can actually BE EQUIPPED to do his will.



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*God's Spirit*

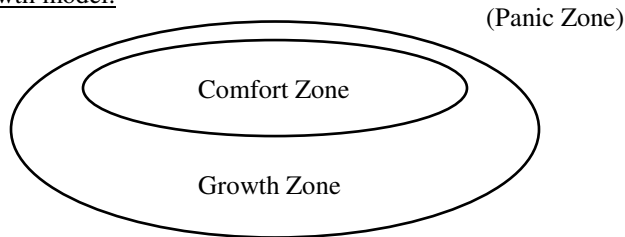


Q) Do you really want to grow?  
 Q) What would you say to someone who doesn't want to grow?

### III. How to Grow

- Growth occurs when you try new things, learn new things (“no pain, no gain” is sometimes relevant)
- Growth doesn't occur when you just do the same things (habit, uninspired tradition, etc.)
- We've all tried new & different things in our spiritual lives... what's gone on lately?
- Spiritual growth categories include: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control...ultimately godliness (Galatians 5:22-25)

A growth model:



Growth Categories

- Physical
- Mental
- Emotional
- Spiritual



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A. Jesus Grew

1. **As a boy Luke 2:41-52:** He sat with teachers, listened, asked questions; grew in favor with God and men.
2. **As a man Mark 1:32-39** He constantly did new things... up early, very early, on the heals of a day with much healing...then next day preaching, driving out demons.

B. Other Biblical Examples of Spiritual Growth, fostered by connection to God and personal action of where someone got OUT of their Comfort Zone, and IN to a Growth (or FAITH) Zone:

<u>Person</u>	<u>Comfort Zone</u>	<u>Growth Zone</u>	<u>Result</u>
Enoch	Be human	100% thought on God	God took him alive
Noah	Be accepted by peers, neighbors	Build an ark when it never rained	Saved family, saved life
Abraham	Keep his son safe and alive	Offer Isaac as sacrifice on alter	Got Isaac back; father of nations
Moses	Treasures, comforts of Egypt	Be treated as a lowly Israelite	Let people out of bondage
Paul	Kill Christians; being legalistic	Spread Christianity	Become foundation for spreading Gospel
Charlie	Work on cars... hold the remote	Be an elder & evangelist	Transformed life
You	Keep Christ selfishly to yourself	<u>Share</u> how He has changed you	Others see your Christianity; you feel better

Q) How spiritual would the Biblical examples feel if they had stayed in their comfort zone?  
 Q) ANSWER In **my** spiritual life, I spend \_\_\_\_\_% in my comfort zone \_\_\_\_\_% in a growth zone



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#### IV. How to KEEP growing

- Life and spiritual growth within life, are journeys;
- Stay connected and let God do the rest; Staying connected is easier said than done!

##### A. Maintain a mature attitude to the journey

- Trees accept the seasons, loss of leaves, the pruning
- Bigger trees bend more when wind (troubles) come
- But, they also get stronger: Accept as part of the growth process
- Acceptance that pain, suffering and discomfort part of Christianity



##### B. Make sure you are plugged in



- Q) Are you mentally prepared for the journey to spiritual growth?
- Q) Are you committed to keep your 'roots' plugged in to the soil?

- Remain in the fruit of the vine (John 15:1-8)
- Transplanting can be challenging



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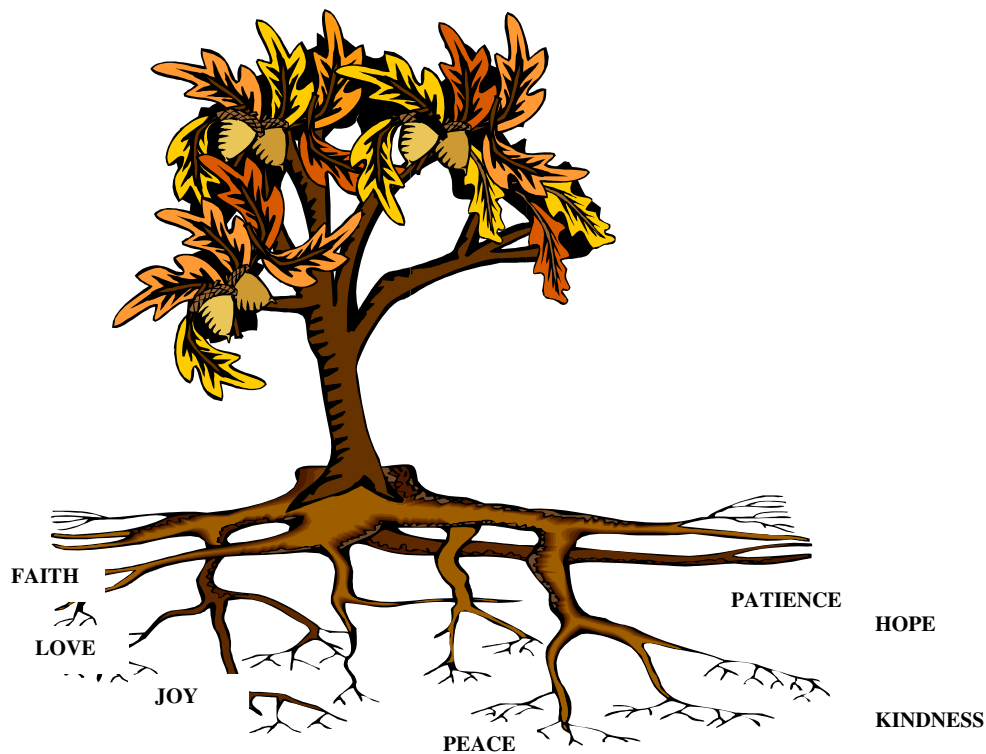
### Spiritual Growth

#### V. Summary

- God expects splendor in our Spiritual Growth... to be like Oaks of Righteousness
- The Motivation is easy, because it is do or die
- We must be growing spiritually to even have a chance to understand the depths of God
- You grow when you venture outside the comfort zone... It's the only way
- You're not too much different than Jesus, or Paul or Noah
- You keep growing by expecting challenges, and staying connected TO GOD through the good and bad
- BENEFITS ARE BIG: Better happiness, better relationships... a better life on this earth as you get ready for heaven!

Be a splendid OAK OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

Stay rooted in Christ!





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### **Spiritual Growth**

#### **VI. “Must ask” Questions**

- **DO YOU REALLY WANT TO GROW?**
- **WHAT MIGHT YOU SAY TO SOMEONE WHO DOESN'T WANT TO GROW?**
- **WHAT THINGS MIGHT YOU SEE IN A PERSON WHO WANTS TO GROW?**

#### **VII. Other Scriptures for study**

- **Romans 12:1-2** spiritual act of worship
- **Romans 12:11** have spiritual fervor
- **1 Corinthians 3:1** be addressed as spiritual