

SPIRITUAL GROWTH IS A *Process*



NOVEMBER 2019

I pray that all is excellent with you. Taffi's and my confession concerning you is that you experience victory in every area of life, and that you grow in the love of God. As I have shared before, love is a powerful force. Living a life of love makes all the difference in the world, especially where your spiritual growth is concerned.

When it comes to growing up spiritually, there are two important nuggets of wisdom I have learned, and I want to share them with you. Number one, never think you have "arrived" and no longer need to grow as a Christian; and number two, never think you can't be taught anything else. You see, no matter how long a person has been a born-again believer and serving the Lord, there is always room

for growth. As believers, we should all aspire to grow spiritually; however, it must be fueled by passion. Are you passionate about pursuing your relationship with God, and drawing closer to Him? Are you passionate about learning how to become more like Jesus? If not, I encourage you to stir up your passion, because passionate people get results! Let me explain.

Achieving success through spiritual growth begins with a desire. You have to want to grow in order to make progress. The Bible says, "... *you should crave (thirst for, earnestly desire) the pure (unadulterated) spiritual milk, that by it you may be nurtured and grow unto [completed] salvation*" (1 Peter 2:2, AMPC). The "spiritual milk" referred to in this Scripture

refers to the Word of God, which is the nourishment we need to grow spiritually.

Spiritual growth does not take place overnight; it's a process. You don't get born again one day, and become spiritually mature the next day. Much like baking—you can't gather all the ingredients for baking an apple pie, stick them in an oven, and expect a fully baked pie in five minutes. It doesn't work that way. Here's another illustration: a baby isn't born walking and talking. A baby has to be nurtured and taught.

My job is to help you grow spiritually by fully equipping you with an understanding of how to apply the Word of God to your life. That's spiritual nurturing. According to Ephesians 4:11, that is the responsibility of apostles,

prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers of God's Word. Verse 12 lets us know that your spiritual growth positions you to "do the work of the ministry," so the entire body of Christ can be built up and strengthened.

Ephesians 4:14 and 15 go on to say that the purpose for spiritual growth is so *"That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ."*

Growing up spiritually is critical. It involves three stages: babyhood, childhood, and adulthood. These stages are similar to the stages of physical growth. Rather than spending a lot of time talking about each of the stages of spiritual development, I want to focus on growing up spiritually where our emotions and attitudes are concerned.

One characteristic of babies is that they are often irritable. They cry when they are hungry,

have a dirty diaper, want to be held, or don't get their way. Does this remind you of some adults?

As believers, we cannot act like spiritual babies who easily get upset and offended when things don't go our way. We can't operate in strife or hold on to unforgiveness when someone does something against us. Also, we can't get angry when confronted with the truth concerning something we know we ought to change about ourselves. That's not an attitude of love, and it's not Christlike.

Anger, resentment, and offense are selfish emotions that are all rooted in fear. When a person lashes out in anger and frustration, it is an indication of their need for spiritual growth. Some people become defensive and guarded to prevent themselves from being hurt. That's called self-preservation. You and I don't need to operate in fear of being hurt or mistreated. Our responsibility is to grow in the love of God and treat people with love, no matter what. The Bible says, *"Great peace have they which love thy law:*

and nothing shall offend them" (Psalm 119:165). Can you use some peace and wholeness in your life? Start by loving God and having enough faith in His Word to live by it. It does no good to read the Bible from cover to cover multiple times if we neglect to apply what we've learned. Having head knowledge about the Bible and spiritual things is not enough.

Ask yourself, what are you prepared to do? There is so much for you to accomplish for the kingdom of God, and He wants you to grow spiritually so that you can make a tremendous impact in the world. He loves you and wants you to mature into the character of Jesus, who is our greatest example of love. Even Jesus underwent a process of growing up spiritually (Luke 2:40).

Therefore, I encourage you to examine where you are in your spiritual growth, specifically concerning your emotions. Do you handle pressure and stress God's way, or your own? How is your attitude and love toward others? If it's not how it should be, use the Word as a mirror to reflect what your character

should be (2 Corinthians 3:18). To help you further develop spiritually, Taffi and I would love for you to have *Morality vs. the Mosaic Law Part 1*, a powerful teaching resource that we know will bless and encourage you. It is our gift to you for your loving support. So, be sure to download

Morality vs. the Mosaic Law Part 1

<https://bit.ly/2l7tesJ>

Know that you are in our hearts, and that we're praying for you always. May you experience all God has for you and nothing less. Praise God! Remember that Jesus is Lord, and "...*In all your getting, get understanding*" (Proverbs 4:7, NKJV).

In Expectation,



P.S. Be sure to tune in to the *Changing Your World* broadcast every day this month. I'll be sharing powerful teachings on the contrasts between the Law of Moses and the grace of Jesus. Don't miss a single broadcast!

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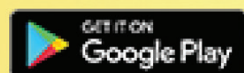
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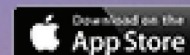
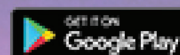
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Thank you for taking the opportunity to get involved in the work we do here at Creflo Dollar Ministries! I am more determined this year to water lives with the Word of Grace, and teach this Word to as many people that will hear it and have ears to hear. Your financial contributions make the difference and ensure that millions of lives are touched each year as we minister the Gospel of Grace. Take a look at our list of 2019 initiatives and pray about what God wants you to contribute to these efforts.

You can also log on to www.missions.creflodollarministries.org to learn more about our work. When you find the initiative that speaks to your heart, fill out this Commitment Card and send it in. Let's get the job done and cause many to understand grace, to be empowered to change!

2019 GLOBAL INITIATIVES

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Agape Outreach, Back 2 School at Ronald McDonald House, Because We Care, Effective Aid, Global Community Day Outreach, Pasifika-Gold Coast, and Rahab Ministry | **Cost of Initiative: \$7,120.34 USD**

• CANADA

Back 2 School, Because We Care, Global Community Day Outreach, Hope in Disaster, Support Mercy-Canada, and Toronto Street Mission | **Cost of Initiative: \$2,754.75 USD**

• HAITI

Ministry trips in May and August | **Cost of Initiative: \$36,760.00 USD**

• KENYA

Ministry trips in March and October | **Cost of Initiative: \$41,260.00 USD**

• SOUTH AFRICA

Angola Empowerment, Blanket Drive, Buy n' Bag Project, Global Community Day Outreach, Kenya Empowerment, Lunfuno Creche, Polokego Women's Shelter, Remar Education Centre, and Tshedza Daycare Centre | **Cost of Initiative: \$10,800.56 USD**

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As we proclaim Jesus, the Christ, as the Head of the Church and the manifested Word of God, our goal is to teach the Word of God with simplicity and understanding so that it may be applied to our everyday lives in a practical and effective manner; thereby being transformed into World Changers—changing our immediate world and all those with whom we come in contact —ultimately Understanding Grace | Empowering Change.

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