

Keys to Spiritual Growth

Mayfield Centre

Monday Nights at 7:30pm
6th January to 3rd February

Week 1



Acts 2: 41 - 47

- 41 Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.
- 42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.
- 43 Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles.
- 44 Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common,
- 45 and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.
- 46 So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart,
- 47 praising God and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

Subjects

- Week 1 - Growth through His Word
- Week 2 - Growth through Fellowship
- Week 3 - Growth through Prayer
- Week 4 - Growth through Worship
- Week 5 - Growth through Evangelism

Prerequisites to Growth

- Born Again
 - John 3:33 Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."
- Spiritual
 - 1 Corinthians 2:14 But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned

Growth is Not Automatic

Hebrews 5:12

- *For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food.*

Growth is a Process

2 Peter 1:5-8

- *But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.*



Growth requires Discipline

1 Timothy 4:7

- *Exercise yourself toward godliness. For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come.*

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Growth through His Word

2 Timothy 3: 16 - 17

16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work

Growth through His Word

- for doctrine
 - How to get on the righteous path
- for reproof
 - Tells us when we are off the path
- for correction
 - Tells us how to get back on the path
- for instruction in righteousness
 - How to stay on the righteous path

Growth through His Word

- Seven Keys to Growth through His Word
 - Listen
 - Read
 - Study
 - Meditate
 - Prayer
 - Memorise
 - Apply

Growth through His Word

- Listen

- *Acts 17:11 These (the Bereans) were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.*
- *All Readiness*
- *Daily*
- *Tested*

Growth through His Word

- Read

- *Hosea 4:6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.*
- Read systematically (Daily Reading Plan)
- Read both Old & New Testament
- Underline/Highlight verses
- Prioritise it in your daily schedule

Growth through His Word

- Study

- *2 Timothy 2:15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*
- Ask the right questions (Who, what, where, when, why & how)
- Get a good study Bible
- Get a Bible Handbook, Dictionary & Concordance

Growth through His Word

- **Meditate**

- *Psalm 1:2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night.*
- “Chew your spiritual food”
- Picture it, Paraphrase it, Personalise it, Pray over it
- Allow the Holy Spirit to speak to you through each passage

Growth through His Word

- Prayer

- *Psalm 119:18 Open my eyes, that I may see Wondrous things from Your law*
- Ask the author to speak to you through the passage you have read

Growth through His Word

- Memorise

- *Psalm 119:11 Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You!*
- Resist temptation & make wise decisions
- Write the verses out on a card or piece of paper, put them in a place where you see them regularly

Growth through His Word

- Apply

- *James 1:22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves*
- Is there a sin I need to confess or forsake?
- Is there a command given that I need to obey?
- Is there a promise made that I can look to in my current circumstances?
- Is there a prayer given that I could pray?

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Week 2



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Growth through Fellowship

Psalm 1: 1 – 3

1 Blessed is the man

Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly,
Nor stands in the path of sinners,
Nor sits in the seat of the scornful;

2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD,
And in His law he meditates day and night.

3 He shall be like a tree
Planted by the rivers of water,
That brings forth its fruit in its season,
Whose leaf also shall not wither;
And whatever he does shall prosper.

Warning
against
fellowship with
the wrong
people

Growth through Fellowship

1 John 1: 1 - 10

1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life-- 2 the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us-- 3 that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have **fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.** 4 And these things we write to you that your joy may be full. 5 This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.



Growth through Fellowship

1 John 1: 1 - 10 (cont)

6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. 8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.



Growth through Fellowship

- **KOINONIA (Fellowship)**
 - Fellowship
 - Communion
 - Partnership
 - Distribution
 - Contribution
 - Partakership

Growth through Fellowship

- **One Anothers in the Bible**

- Love One Another
- Wash One Anothers Feet (Serve One Another)
- Receive One Another
- Edify One Another
- Encourage One Another
- Bear One Anothers Burden
- Forgive One Another
- Submit One to Another
- Showing Hospitality to One Another
- Pray for One Another

Growth through Fellowship

- Love One Another

- John 15:34 - 35 ³⁴A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. ³⁵By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."
- Commanded by Jesus
- Sign that we are Christians
- A sacrificial love

Growth through Fellowship

- Wash One Another's Feet (Serve One Another)
 - John 13: 12-15 ¹²So when He had washed their feet, taken His garments, and sat down again, He said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? ¹³You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am. ¹⁴If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you.
 - See the need and do it, don't be selective
 - Do it with humility

Growth through Fellowship

- Wash One Another's Feet (Serve One Another)
 - Galatians 5:13 For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.
 - Serving each other helps us to grow towards a godly life

Growth through Fellowship

- Receive One Another
 - Romans 15:7 Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us to the glory of God.
 - We should accept each other
 - We should be impartial and fellowship with all Christians

Growth through Fellowship

- Edify One Another (Teach)
 - Romans 14:19 Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another.
 - Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another
 - Using God's Word to assist each other to grow
 - Instruct, teach, correct, disciple

Growth through Fellowship

- Encourage One Another
 - Hebrews 3:13 but exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.
 - Hebrews 10:24 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works
 - Look for opportunities to encourage others
 - Daily!

Growth through Fellowship

- Bear One Another's Burden
 - Galatians 6:2 Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.
 - Ephesians 4:2 with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love
 - Growth comes through sharing the bad times as well as the good times

Growth through Fellowship

- Forgive One Another
 - Ephesians 4:32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.
 - We are all growing and make mistakes
 - Recognise what God has forgiven in your life and you will find it easier to forgive others

Growth through Fellowship

- Submit One to Another
 - Ephesians 5:21 submitting to one another in the fear of God.
- Showing Hospitality to One Another
 - 1 Peter 4:9 Be hospitable to one another without grumbling.
- Pray for One Another
 - James 5:16 pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

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Week 3



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Growth through Prayer

Philippians 4: 6 -7

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Growth through Prayer

The Purpose of Prayer

- Worship God

Psalm 29:2 Give unto the LORD the glory due to His name; Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.

- Receive Guidance

Proverbs 3: 5-6 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.

- Be Filled with Joy

Psalm 37: 4-5 Delight yourself also in the LORD, And He shall give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass

Growth through Prayer

Power of Prayer

Jeremiah 33:3 'Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.'

Growth through Prayer

Pray Every Day

1 Thessalonians 5: 16 -18 Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you

Growth through Prayer

Matthew 6: 9 - 13

9 "In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. 10 Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven. 11 Give us this day our daily bread. 12 And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors. 13 And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.



Growth through Prayer

Matthew 6: 9 - 13

- **Praise:** Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.
- **Purpose:** Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven
- **Provision:** Give us this day our daily bread.
- **Pardon:** And forgive us our debts
- **Pardon Others:** As we forgive our debtors
- **Protection:** And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one

Growth through Prayer

- **Praise:** Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.
 - Psalm 100:4-5 Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name. For the LORD is good; His mercy is everlasting, And His truth endures to all generations
 - God's character & nature
 - God's names

Growth through Prayer

- **Purpose:** Your kingdom come. Your will be done
On earth as it is in heaven
 - Personal Request

Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.
 - Evangelistic Request
 - Prophetic Request

Growth through Prayer

- **Provision:** Give us this day our daily bread.
 - Philippians 4:19 And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.
 - James 4:2-3 Yet you do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures.
 - God want to provide our daily needs



Growth through Prayer

- **Pardon:** And forgive us our debts
 - Psalm 129:23-24 Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; And see if there is any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting.
 - 1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
 - Confession & repentance of our sins

Growth through Prayer

- **Pardon Others:** As we forgive our debtors
 - Matthew 18:21-22 Then Peter came to Him and said, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.
 - Ephesians 4:32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you.

Growth through Prayer

- **Protection:** And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one
 - 1 John 4:4 You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.
 - Daily victory over sin & temptation

Growth through Prayer

- **A.C.T.S**
 - **Adoration** (Worship)
 - **Confession** (Of Specific Sins)
 - **Thanksgiving** (Gratitude)
 - **Supplication** (Specific Requests)

Growth through Prayer

- Hindrances to Prayer
 - Lack of Discipline
 - Regular time, location
 - Easily Distracted
 - Write it out, Speak it aloud
 - Times of Dryness
 - Pray God's Word
 - No Diligence
 - Prayer is commanded by Jesus

Growth through Prayer

1Timothy 2:8 I desire therefore that the men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.

James 1:5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

James 5:16 The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.



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Week 4



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Growth through Worship

John 4:19-24

19 The woman said to Him, "Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet.

20 "Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.

21 Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father.

22 "You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews.

23 "But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.

24 "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."



Growth through Worship

What is the basis of Worship?

- It is not based on a place
- It is not based on our knowledge
- It is not based on our nationality or denomination
- It is not based on a physical act

- It is based on our relationship with the Father
- It is based on a spiritual act
- It is based on the truth (The Bible)
- It is based on the Father's desire for us to worship Him

Growth through Worship

The Priority of Worship?

- Psalm 42:1-2 As the deer pants for the water brooks, So pants my soul for You, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God?
- “Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.” *The Westminster Shorter Catechism*

Growth through Worship

- **The Wonder of Worship**
 - It delights our Father
 - It develops our fellowship
 - It defeats our foe
 - It dethrones our flesh
 - It declares our faith

Growth through Worship

- **Principles Guiding Worship**
 - **Worship** is given solely for God's glory and honour. Psalm 95:1-7
 - **Worship** is to be intimate and self disclosing. Psalm 42:1
 - **Worship** involves our whole person; body, soul, and spirit. Romans 12:1
 - **Worship** is lead by the Holy Spirit. John 4:23
 - **Worship** is intended for the whole congregation. Psalm 95:1,2,6
 - **Worship** ushers in the ministry of the Holy Spirit. John 5:19,20

Growth through Worship

- **Forms of Worship**

- **Praise:** Creative, outward expression of God's greatness.
- **Exalt:** Speak of God's superiority over anything else.
- **Thanks:** Acknowledge God – the source of help and blessing.
- **Bless:** Give God the richest part of our lives.
- **Proclaim:** Tell others about God and His works.
- **Adore:** Inward contemplation and devotion.

Growth through Worship

- **Why Worship Is Important**
 - **Change:** Worship changes our perspective and priorities. Worship changes us into more of the image of Jesus.
 - **Love:** Worship facilitates our interaction of love with the Father.
 - **Freedom:** Worship frees us from things, worries and fears.
 - **Softens:** Worship softens our hearts to God and His word.
 - **Seek:** Worship causes us to seek Him and to be satisfied more and more in Him.
 - **Prepares:** Worship prepares us for an eternity of being in the presence of the Living God, the Great I AM, the Eternal One.

Growth through Worship

- A.W. Tozer

True worship of God must be a constant and consistent attitude or state of mind within the believer. It will always be a sustained and blessed acknowledgment of love and adoration, subject in this life to degrees of perfection and intensity.

True worship is found in the simple and honest pursuit of a loving God, a desire to adore and love Jesus.

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Week 5



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Growth through Evangelism

Matthew 5: 13 - 16

You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavour, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. "Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

- Salt: Living what you believe
- Light: Proclaiming what you believe



Growth through Evangelism

Acts 1: 4 - 9

4 And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; 5 "for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." 6 Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" 7 And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. 8 "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." 9 Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.



Growth through Evangelism

- *v4 The Promise of the Father*
- *v5 Baptised with the Holy Spirit*
- *v8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses*
- *John 6:65 And He said, "Therefore I have said to you that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted to him by My Father."*
- Evangelism is not something that we can do naturally it is only through the empowering of the Holy Spirit in the believer and the Holy Spirit working in the life of the seeker.

Growth through Evangelism

Acts 8: 26-39

26 Now an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, "Arise and go toward the south along the road which goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is desert. 27 So he arose and went. And behold, a man of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under Candace the queen of the Ethiopians, who had charge of all her treasury, and had come to Jerusalem to worship, 28 was returning. And sitting in his chariot, he was reading Isaiah the prophet. 29 Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go near and overtake this chariot." 30 So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, "Do you understand what you are reading?"

Growth through Evangelism

Acts 8: 26-39 (cont)

31 And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he asked Philip to come up and sit with him. 32 The place in the Scripture which he read was this: "He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; And as a lamb before its shearer is silent, So He opened not His mouth. In His humiliation His justice was taken away, And who will declare His generation? For His life is taken from the earth." So the eunuch answered Philip and said, "I ask you, of whom does the prophet say this, of himself or of some other man?" Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him.

Growth through Evangelism

Acts 8: 26-39 (cont)

36 Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, "See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?" 37 Then Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." 38 So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him. 39 Now when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away, so that the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing.

Growth through Evangelism

Acts 8: 26-39

- We must have a God-given compassion for the lost.
- We must go to those who need Christ.
- We must be open and available to the leading of God's Holy Spirit.
- We must be obedient to God's calling.
- We must be tactful and clear.
- We must adapt to the situation

Growth through Evangelism

Matthew 9: 35- 38

35 Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. 36 But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. 37 **Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. 38 "Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."**

