

# GROWING SPIRITUALLY

A newborn baby is observed carefully to be sure it is growing properly. Parents measure and weigh the baby at least once a week. There is great concern and anxiety if there is no growth.

The Bible teaches that God wants us to grow in the knowledge of God and to grow in our faith and in our love for each other.

Colossians 1:10, “And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, **growing** in the knowledge of God”

2 Thessalonians 1:3, “We ought always to thank God for you, brothers, and rightly so, because your faith is **growing** more and more, and the love every one of you has for each other is increasing.”

What are some indications that we are growing spiritually?

## 1. AN AWARENESS OF SIN.

There will be greater awareness of words, thoughts and actions which do not please the Lord.

**John 16:8**, “*When He, Holy Spirit Comes, He will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment...*”

**Romans 7:17-18** “*As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out.*”

**I John 5:19**, “*We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one*”

## 2. A PERSONAL HUNGER FOR GOD’S WORD

**There is only one way to grow in the knowledge of God and that is by Reading, Meditating and Memorizing God’s Word.**

Certain sections will begin to stand out to you with new meaning and understanding.

**Let's listen to some testimonies about God's Word.**

**Job said,** *"I have not departed from the commands of His lips; I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my daily bread."* Job 23:12

**Jeremiah said,** *"Your Word they were my joy and my heart's delight,"*  
Jeremiah 15:16

**The writer of Hebrews said,** *"For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword."* Hebrews 4:12

**Peter said,** *"Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation."* 1 Peter 2:2

### **3. A GENUINE DESIRE FOR A CHANGED LIFE.**

There will be a genuine desire for a changed life and a new delight in the commandments of the Lord.

**II Corinthians 5:17** *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"*

### **4. EXPERIENCE INCREASE IN TESTING.**

There will be an immediate increase in personal testing, often from those closest to you, who do not understand Salvation, or from other Christians who have lost their first love.

**Luke 6:22,** *"Blessed are you when men hate you, when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man."*

**II Timothy 3:12,** *"In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted."*

### **5. TRUE LOVE FOR OTHER BELIEVERS**

There will be a sincere enjoyment in the fellowship of other believers.

**I John 4:7-13,** *"Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God."*

## 6. DESIRE TO SHARE CHRIST WITH OTHERS.

One of the first signs of a genuine born-again Christian is that he will want to share his experience with others. It is important to provide opportunities for him to tell others who will encourage him rather than discouraged him.

**Ps. 107:1-2,** *“Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; His love endures forever. Let the redeemed of the LORD say this”*

**I Peter 3:15,** *“.....Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.....”*

## 7. DAILY FAITHFULNESS

God is faithful and a believer filled with God is also faithful.

Faithful to God  
 Faithful to God’s Word  
 Faithful to Family  
 Faithful to the church  
 Faithful to friends  
 Faithful to the Government  
 Faithful to the Boss

**Galatians 5:22** *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, FAITHFULNESS, gentleness and self-control.*

**Proverbs 3:3** *“ Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart.”*