

The Fellowship of Growth in Christ

Lesson Five:

Walking with Jesus

“It is impossible to have a Christian lifestyle without knowing the realities of the life that Christ has provided.” (*John MacArthur*)

The realities of your new spiritual life—which Jesus provides for you—are what you grow to show.

You learn about these realities of your new life in Christ in Scripture.

You can't walk with Jesus if you don't know Jesus.

You can't grow to show Jesus in your lifestyle unless you are learning from Him.

You can only learn from Him as you love Him and keep His commandments.

You do this from your inner person, from your heart.

Your Spiritual Growth



There is an inner you which is the real you;
it is the heart/soul of who you are.

Your Control Center for Living



These operations take place in what we call the mind,
so we can think of your heart as your reasoning center.

Proverbs 4:23

Your mind is:

- where you process the issues or matters of life
- where you do your thinking
- where you reason, perceive, plan, and interpret or make meaning of what you encounter in life.

Your thoughts, intentions, beliefs, desires, and attitudes are aspects of the whole of your inner man (inner personhood). And they help us understand the operations of our heart in relationship to Christ, to His Word, and to our world and others.

Matthew 22:37-40

John 14:1, 15, 21-24, 27

We are to love, honor, and obey Jesus from the heart—our entire being.

Heart + Mind + Soul emphasizes the fullness of our personhood.

Jesus is telling us that we are to love God with the entirety of our inner self. You cannot grow to be more like Jesus without growing to love Him with your entire being. You grow to love Jesus and then show His character by walking with Him.

Danger!

“So you, too, outwardly appear righteous to men, but inwardly you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.” (Matt. 23:28)

“This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far away from Me.” (Mark 7:6)

“It is not the study of theology, it is not reading books upon points of controversy, it is not searching into mysterious prophecy which will bless your soul, it is looking to Jesus crucified. That is the essential nutriment of the life of faith, and mind that you keep to it.” (Charles Spurgeon)

Spiritual growth involves both a process and a pursuit.

Spiritual growth requires both patience and persistence.

Because we are growing to love Jesus, we willingly and obediently pursue becoming more like Jesus. And that loving, patient, persistent pursuit of Jesus is what the Bible calls our walk with the Lord.

“Therefore, as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him.”
(Col. 2:6)

“By this we know that we have come to know [Christ], if we keep His commandments. The one who says, ‘I have come to know Him,’ and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; but whoever keeps [Christ’s] word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in [Christ]: the one who says he abides in [Christ] ought himself to walk in the same manner as [Christ] walked.” (1 John 2:3-6)

The more closely you walk with Jesus, the more like Jesus you become and the more you grow to show Him in your life.

Our walk with Jesus is our Christian life.

Are you making your life about Jesus?

When you read your Bible, does it help you grow closer to Christ so that your heart is being transformed in love for Him?

When you pray, are your prayers reflecting your love for Jesus and what He loves?

Do you think about church life, marriage, singleness, parenting, sexuality, work, vacations, money, time, stuff, and life the way Jesus thinks about these things?

Spiritual growth takes place as we walk with the Lord, as we build our relationship with Him.

We have a spiritual responsibility and privilege, gained by our position in Christ, to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord.

“Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called...” (Eph. 4:1)

“...walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.” (1 Thess. 2:12)

*“Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ...”
(Phil. 1:27)*

If you are not making your daily life about Jesus, you are missing the point of Christian living.

Walking in God's Word

You can't become like Jesus without living by His truth.

If you don't read, study, think carefully about, apply, and obey God's truth, you will not grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus.

Psalm 119:1-5

What Jesus is doing in you to grow you in His love is seen in your obedience to Him by keeping His Word, by living out His truth.

“He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me.... If anyone loves Me, he will keep My Word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him.” (John 14:21, 23)

The Bible tells us that this spiritual wisdom isn't confined to a body of words in the Bible. This wisdom is personified, it is alive in a Person, so that In Christ Himself:

“...are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.” (Col. 2:3)

“But by [God’s] doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God....” (1 Cor. 1:30)

The point: Your growth in the wisdom and knowledge of God is found in your relationship with Jesus Christ. He is your wisdom. Pursue Him and you will grow in your understanding of how to live a holy, blessed, treasured, and God-pleasing life.

Read the Bible to know and serve Jesus.

Pray to know and serve Jesus.

Go to church, be married, be single, parent, be male and female, work, play, eat, drink, and do all that you do to know and serve Jesus Christ.

Paul's constant prayer:

“For this reason also, since the day we heard of [your faith in Christ], we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding...” (Col. 1:9)

This emphasis defined Paul's entire effort in ministry:

“We proclaim [Christ], admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom so that we may present every man complete in Christ. For this purpose also I labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me.” (Col. 1:28-29)

Walking with Jesus in a worthy manner is impossible apart from
walking in His Word in a worthy manner.

You must know, own, apply, and obey the truth of God in Scripture.

“Right doctrine is essential to right living. It is impossible to live a faithful Christian life without knowing biblical doctrine. Doctrine simply means teaching, and there is no way even the sincere believer can live a life pleasing to God without knowing what God Himself is like and knowing the sort of life God wants him to live. Those who set biblical theology aside also set aside Christian living.” *(John MacArthur)*

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