

ON TRACK BIBLE APPLICATION WEEK 2
GROWING AND MAINTAINING AN INTIMATE FRIENDSHIP WITH JESUS
WEEK OF OCTOBER 27-NOVEMBER 2, 2019

I. Introduction

A. Why it's so important to grow.

A Christian not growing spiritually is like a child never learning to walk or talk physically. As we grow, we outgrow childish struggles, and gain new perspective, power, and opportunities.

“When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me.”
(1 Cor. 13:11)

B. In John 15:1-12 we see at the heart of growing is knowing God in a more intimate and personal way.

This is what the Lord says: “Let not the wise boast of their wisdom or the strong boast of their strength or the rich boast of their riches, but let the one who boasts boast about this: that they have the understanding to know me, that I am the Lord, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on the earth, for in these I delight.” (Jeremiah 9:23-24)

Jonathan was a type of Christ, who gave up his kingdom and life to be David's friend! This is the foundation of all growth because:

1. Christianity is a relationship not a religion. It's a partnership not a performance.

- *“There is a big difference between knowing about Him and knowing Him.”*
- *“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?’ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’”* (Mat. 7:21-23)

2. The more we grow in a relationship, the more we discover how to let Jesus be the source of our life. For example, passion for God is simply our response and awareness of His passion for us. Faith is a revelation of His faithfulness. We love because we are provoked by an awareness of His love for us. *“We love because he first loved us.”* (1 John 4:19)

3. Great leaders in the Bible like Moses, David, Paul all made the pursuit of knowing God, their “magnificent obsession.”

“I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord...” (Philippians 3:8)

4. Satan constantly tries to attack our intimacy with Jesus in different ways because he knows it is the foundation of your victory.

“But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent’s cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ.” (2 Cor. 11:3)

II. **Jesus taught us that we come to know Him better by organizing our lives around simple disciplines (prayer, worship, Bible reading/mediation, fellowship, and surrender) that allow us to stay in constant awareness and friendship with Jesus throughout our days.**

- A. We grow and change not by doing big things but by faithfully doing the small things so that Jesus can do the huge and big things only He can do.

“Don’t despise the day of small things...” (Zechariah 4:10)

- B. Growth always begins by a heart that is yielded and willing to do whatever Jesus shows us is the next thing to do. Water baptism is one of the first steps that turns someone from a fan to a follower.

“His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.” (John 2:5-Mary’s advice on discipleship)

- C. The key to the disciplines is to do them not for routine but relationship.

1. **Prayer and worship-** Heart-felt expressions out of a longing to stay in fellowship, to realize and express His value, to pursue intimate friendship

2. **God’s Word-** To stay eager to hear and apply what He want to say to us today.

3. **Fellowship-** We fellowship with others because so often we become to each other “God with skin on”. Our encouragement, shared experiences and support are critical to removing the lies, lids, locks, and labels that keep us from growing deeper in our relationship with Christ.

“Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.” (James 5:16)

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Growth is a process by which so many old, crippling things fall by the wayside and life changing perspective, power, and opportunity to come our way. Can you share an example of something both naturally and spiritually that you used to struggle with but as you chose maturity you outgrew or are outgrowing?
2. In a personal way, how has knowing Jesus/ having a friendship with Jesus most effected your life?
3. How did taking a step like water baptism propel you forward on a spiritual growth track?
4. Give an example of how an experience in prayer, worship, reading the Bible, or fellowship impacted your relationship with God and changed you in some area?
5. How has or is Satan trying to attack you and keep you from walking in an intimate relationship with Jesus? Which of the following is something he often tries to use?
 - a. Guilt and unworthiness
 - b. Making rules and performance at the center of my thinking about God
 - c. Doubts about whether it's true or I'm good enough
 - d. Distraction, the offer of substitutes that cause me to make knowing God less of a priority than it should be.