

BE A BRINGER

“40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus....” John 1:40-42a

A bringer makes one touch each week by investing and inviting someone to Christ and church.

Name three people you will pray for their salvation this week:

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE WEEK

“Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you;....” I Samuel 12:23a



Denise Carter
Missionary to Ukraine
Please Contact Her at
deniseinodessa@yahoo.com



Growth Track
Take Your Next Step
Growth Guide

Handout: 8/6/2017
Study: 8/13/2017

Ready, Set, Grow!

How does a person grow spiritually? Is it the Pastor’s job to grow you? Is it your responsibility to grow yourself? Or is it something that God does for you automatically? People who grow the fastest are the people who realize their dependence on God, but you also must have a personal plan for spiritual growth.

Spiritual growth is different than our physical growth. As children grow, we teach them to do things for themselves. We celebrate as they are able to feed themselves, dress themselves, make good decisions, etc. We often measure a child’s maturity based upon their independence.

Spiritual growth is different. Prior to our salvation we were in rebellion against God and “independent” from Him. If physical maturity is marked by independence, spiritual maturity is marked by understanding our **complete dependence** on God and learning to rely upon Him. As we grow in our relationship with the Lord, we realize more and more how much we need Him.

God will work in us and grow us:

“being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ” (Philippians 1:6 NKJV).

But what is our responsibility to grow? Many Christians grow older, but do not mature because they wrongly assume that spiritual growth is either automatic or it is someone else’s responsibility. We plan for our weekend or plan for retirement, but do we have a plan for our spiritual growth? How can we assist God in growing us? What steps do we need to take so that a year from now we can rejoice in the growth that God has done in us?

In this series, Growth Track: Take Your Next Step, we will learn steps that will accelerate our spiritual growth. Let’s grow in Christ together.

KEY VERSE

Hebrews 6:1a

“Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection.”

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: Hebrews 5:7-6:1

Introduction

What is a skill that you are good at?

How did you become good at it? Were you born talented in this area, did you have to work to perfect it, or a combination of both?

How do we grow spiritually?

Tuesday: Hebrews 5:12-14; 6:1

God Desires Spiritual Growth in His People

Hebrews uses the analogy of food in describing spiritual maturity. What does it mean for someone to drink milk spiritually?

What does it mean for a person to eat solid food spiritually?

How is this reflected in your life?

Wednesday: Ephesians 4:13-15

Goal of Spiritual Growth: To be Christ-like

What does it mean to be like Christ?

What are some qualities of Jesus that you would like to have?

Is it possible to have the wrong goals for spiritual growth?

Thursday: Philippians 2:12; John 15:1-8; Jude 24

God Supplies the Resources for Spiritual Growth

How does God supply what we need to grow?

How can we yield ourselves to the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives and not try to grow by our own strength and resources?

How dependent on God are you?

Some years ago, a study was done by an agricultural school in Iowa. It reported that production of a hundred bushels of corn from one acre of land required 4,000,000 lbs. of water, 6,800 lbs. of oxygen, 5,200 lbs. of carbon, 160 lbs. of nitrogen, 125 lbs. of potassium, 75 lbs. of yellow sulphur, and other elements too numerous to list. In addition to these ingredients are required like rain and sunshine at the right times. Although many hours of the farmer's labor are also needed, it was estimated that only 5 percent of the produce of a farm can be attributed to the efforts of man.

So it is in spiritual realms: God causes the growth. (1 Corinthians 3:6-7)

Friday: 2 Peter 1:5-9; Ephesians 5:15-16; Jude 20

God's People Must Make An Effort to Grow Spiritually

What is an area of your life that you would like to grow in spiritually?

What is your plan for reaching that goal?

What next steps can you take to team with God to make it happen?