

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



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I  MY
CHURCH

**GROWTH
GUIDE**

Handout: 08/26/18

Study: 09/02/18

We Love Our Growth

God’s goal for us is spiritual maturity. The Bible says, “Therefore let us ... go on to maturity” (Hebrews 6:1). The Bible also urges, “Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation” (1 Peter 2:2). The goal of a child’s life is maturity—and the goal of a Christian’s life is spiritual maturity.

What is maturity? On a human level we know it isn’t just a matter of age. We have all met people who were adults in terms of years yet acted like spoiled little children: self-centered, irresponsible, inconsiderate, impulsive, unwise in the decisions they made.

Such a person, we say, is immature, no matter how old they are in years. A mature person, on the other hand, isn’t just physically mature; he or she also has grown up emotionally and socially. They have learned to be considerate and responsible and to realize that their actions have consequences, both for themselves and for others.

In a similar way, spiritual maturity isn’t just a question of how long we have been a Christian. Sadly, far too many Christians never grow and develop in their faith. If asked, they may be able to give a testimony of what God has done for them—but often it’s something that happened many years ago! Spiritually they are in limbo, and if someone examined their spiritual lives five years ago and then looked at them again today, they would see little difference. They have been born again, but they are still babies in Christ.

They are like the Christians to whom Paul wrote in Corinth: “Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly—mere infants in Christ” (1 Corinthians 3:1).

Why don’t we grow in our faith? Sometimes it’s because of a particular sin we have tolerated and allowed to block God’s work, refusing to admit it or give it up. Or sometimes we don’t grow spiritually because we give in to the pressure of those around us who care little for Christ or may even be hostile to Him—family, friends, fellow students, neighbors, co-workers.

In my experience, however, most Christians fail to grow in their faith either because they don’t realize they ought to grow or because they don’t know how to grow. They know Christ died for them and that they will go to Heaven someday, but they don’t know what ought to be happening to them in the meantime. They remain spiritually weak and immature, never experiencing the fullness of life that Jesus promised His followers. Does this describe you?

You can be sure that Satan delights in an immature Christian. An immature Christian is an ineffective Christian, making little impact for Christ on the lives of others. An immature Christian also is an inconsistent Christian, living for Christ one day and forgetting Him the next. An immature Christian provides plenty of ammunition for those who say they don’t believe in Christ because they think the church is full of hypocrites.

Don’t let anything—or anyone—stand in the way of your growth in Christ. Begin now, by asking God to remove whatever barriers are keeping Him from working in your life. Then make it your goal to become—with God’s help—the mature Christian He wants you to be.

Source: “Heading in the Right Direction” by Billy Graham

KEY VERSE

Ephesians 4:15

“but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ” NKJV

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: Acts 2:41; Ephesians 4:13-16

We Grow By Belonging

1. What does it mean to belong to God? To Capital Baptist Church?
2. Why is belonging to God and to a church necessary for spiritual growth?

Tuesday: Acts 2:42-43; John 15:5; Hebrews 10:24

We Grow By Connecting

3. How do you stay connected to God? How do you connect with other believers?
4. How does connecting cause you to grow?

Wednesday: Acts 2:44-45; Mark 10:44-45; I Peter 4:10-11

We Grow By Serving

5. How has God used you to serve Him and others? What are some ways in which He might be asking you to serve now?
6. How does serving cause you to grow?

Thursday: Acts 2:47b; II Corinthians 5:20; I Peter 3:15

We Grow By Bringing

7. Who is a person whose salvation you are praying for?
8. Who is a person you can invite to church?
9. How does sharing your faith and bringing people to church cause you to grow?

Friday: Acts 2:46-47a; Hebrews 10:25; I Chronicles 16:23-25

We Grow By Worshipping

10. Why is worshipping with others at church important?
11. How do you worship God daily?
12. How does worship cause you to grow?