

THE IMPORTANCE OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH

BIBLE VERSES: COLOSSIANS 4:12

Human parents are concerned about their children's growth. It should, therefore, not surprise us that God should also be concerned about the growth of His children. In fact, the Bible teaches clearly that the spiritual growth of His children is of utmost importance to Him. Strangely and sadly, however, there is a lot of confusion among Christians about how spiritual growth can be attained.

Some people believe that spiritual growth is a matter of learning the correct Biblical information. They think that if they study the Bible well enough, attend as many Christian seminars as may be necessary, and gather sufficient Biblical data through other ways, growth in Christ will result automatically. In dealing with this misconception, *Jesus said, "You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify of Me, yet you refuse to come to Me to have life" (John 5:39-40)*. Jesus was speaking here to theological scholars among His hearers, and was making the point that their in-depth knowledge of Scriptures had not led them to Him, the source of truth and life.

So what is Spiritual growth? It may be defined as that transformational process by which we allow the indwelling Christ to increasingly express Himself in and through us, resulting in a greater capacity on our part to bring God greater glory and experience His greater good for ourselves

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1) Why is spiritual growth important? 2 Pet 3:18, Heb. 6:1, Col 1:9-10

2) What are the conditions for spiritual growth? 1 Tim 4:7, Luke 9:23, 2 Peters 3:18, Heb. 5:12-13

3) What are the benefits of spiritual growth? Eph 1:17-18, Eph 6:10-11, Eph 4:14-15, Dan 2:19, Eph 1:8-9

4) What is your plan for your spiritual growth?