

STEPS TO GROWING SPIRITUALLY (PT2)

The Christian life is a journey of growth.

Luke 8:4-15 (niv)

**Part 2: To grow spiritually, we must be
COMMITTED to Grow.**

Spiritual growth is a choice.

Luke 8:4-6 (niv) While a large crowd was gathering and people were coming to Jesus from town after town, He told this parable: ⁵ “A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path; it was trampled on, and the birds ate it up. ⁶ Some fell on rocky ground, and when it came up, the plants withered because they had no moisture.

Luke 8:6 (tlb) Other seed fell on shallow soil with underlying rock. This seed began to grow, but soon it withered and died for lack of moisture.

Jesus continues his analogy by presenting the second type of soil. A shallow soil on top of a rocky foundation.

Luke 8:13 (gw) Some people are like the seeds on rocky soil. They welcome the Word with joy,

*whenever they hear it, but they **don't develop any roots**. They believe for a while, but when their faith is tested, they abandon it.*

Jesus is saying the shallow soil represents a **SHALLOW COMMITMENT**.

For growth or change to occur, we need to allow the Word of God to penetrate the bedrock of our personality.

If there is no application, we are only challenged but not committed!

*Matthew 7:26 (niv) But everyone who **hears these Words of Mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man** who built his house on sand.*

We have to invest time in allowing allow God's Word to transform (change) us.

*1 Timothy 4:7 (ph) Take the **time and the trouble** to keep yourself spiritually fit.*

We have to allow God's Word to sink into our heart and to take root. So, the Word of God becomes our foundation to build our lives upon.

*James 1:22 (ph) Don't only **hear the message but put it into practice**. Otherwise you're merely **deluding (cheating) yourself**.*

“True Christianity is the daily application of God’s Word to our heart. This is the regulator of our life - the compass that keeps us focussed.” **Ps Barry Silverback**

Romans 10:8-10; 17 (niv)

The Word in Our Heads

We must commit ourselves to learn Scripture. Why? *Faith comes from hearing the message.*

This was one of the keys to Jesus' great authority (*John 7:14-15*) Jesus was *'learned'* in the Word of God.

The Word in Our Hearts

We must gain a revelation of the Scripture into our hearts.

Scripture becomes alive and transforming when it is revealed and quickened to us through the Holy Spirit.

The Word in Our Mouth

The Word of God responds to the voice of faith. Utterance is the catalyst that triggers action.

Jesus boldly declared the Word of God concerning Himself and His mission.

When Jesus released the power of the Holy Spirit and the Word into His life, He became empowered to do the will of God – which pleased His Father!

- The Word in our heads = **HEARING** the Word.
- The Word in our hearts = **BELIEVING** the Word.
- The Word in our mouths = **APPLYING** the Word.

If we want to grow spiritually, we must firstly be responsive to God and secondly, we must choose to grow by allowing the Word of God to penetrate our hearts to lay a foundation to build our lives upon.