

Growing in Holiness-Understanding God's Role and Yours

Realizing the Purpose of the Christian Life

The goal of our lives is to be conformed to the image of Christ. To fulfill the original purpose for which we were created; namely, to reflect the very character of God to the world around us.

Understanding My Part in the Process

Jesus summarizes what we are called to do in Matt. 6:33: "Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness." The Greek word for "first" is *protos* and it means "first in order of priority." The quest for the kingdom of God and His righteousness ranks above all else. That's what we are called to do. This is the will of God. We can be certain of that!

Recognizing Barriers to Growth

Martin Luther said that the three principal obstacles to Christian growth are the world, the flesh, and the devil. But, have you ever thought about "how" the world stands as an obstacle to your spiritual growth, "how" the flesh stands as an obstacle to your spiritual growth, or "how" the devil stands as an obstacle to your spiritual growth?

Remembering the Spirit's Work in Me

The Holy Spirit's work includes convicting us of sin. The Holy Spirit will call attention to our sins, reveal them to us, and give us great remorse. When the Spirit convicts us of sin, He always comes with the grace of the Father to heal us and to forgive us—not to lead us into despair. He doesn't come to paralyze us; He come to liberate us.

Measuring My Progress

As we look for outward evidence of faith, the measuring rod by which we determine our spiritual growth is most clearly seen in the fruit of the Spirit. The fruit of the Spirit is nothing more and nothing less than the holy and righteous character of God produced within us.

Love:

Patience and Kindness:

Joy and Peace:

Goodness and Faith:

Meekness and Self-Control:

Developing Perseverance

The basic emphasis of the NT call to sanctification, to growth in Christ, is an emphasis on disciplined struggle. Growth in Christ is not easy, and we have to know we are in for a struggle for the rest of our lives. We press on!