



Jeremy White, Lead Pastor
Church

November 17 & 18, 2018 Valley
Part 3 – God Grows Us

Introduction:

Colossians 2:6 - "So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him..."

God saves us → God blesses us → **God grows us** → God uses us

Eph. 2:10 – we are God's workmanship/handiwork/masterpiece

Rom. 12:1-2 – "transformed" = metamorphosis

God loves you exactly as you are, and He loves you too much to leave you in the condition in which He finds you!

What does it mean to be a "disciple?"

In the Old Testament: A follower or apprentice of a _____

In the New Covenant: Jesus offers a brand new _____

John 15:5 – To "abide" = "to makes your home in, to rest in, to live in"

There is only one _____ who can successfully live the Christian life: Jesus.

Why do we still struggle with sinful behaviors?

The "_____" = the web of old thinking patterns, coping mechanisms and survival strategies that we trained ourselves to rely upon when we lived independently from God. Like old software no longer compatible with our new hardware.

What is "spiritual growth?"

We are Body/Spirit/Soul _____:

- Our human **spirit** is perfected and one with Christ (1 Cor. 6:17)
- Our **soul** is in the process of maturing/growing (Rom. 12:1-2)
- Our **body** will be resurrected to immortality one day (15:51-53)

When we use terms like "spiritual growth," we more literally mean "soul growth."

Hebrews 12:1-2 / Philippians 1:6 / 2 Peter 1:3

SMALL GROUP Q'S

Personal Life:

1. Getting something new takes time and practice to learn and utilize. What about your new life in Christ has taken the most "practice" getting used to? Discuss...

Ponderings

2. In your own words, what is the difference between being a disciple under the Old Covenant and being a disciple under the New Covenant?
3. How much "mastery" over the Christian life must a person have to be considered a disciple? Discuss...
4. In the weekend message, the "flesh" was described using an analogy of a computer - as obsolete software running in the background that is now incompatible with your new hardware (new heart and spirit within). Give an example of how you have acted in the flesh, and why that choice proved to be incompatible with the new you...
5. Talk about the difference between "pleasing God" (striving to meet His standards in your own power) versus "trusting God" (relying upon Him to supply the life of Christ in and through you). Why are these two approaches to Christianity so diametrically opposed? Discuss...
6. In what area(s) do you need to allow Jesus to live through you? What does it look like for you personally and practically to consciously "abide in Christ?"

Promptings:

7. Abiding in Christ is not something done in isolation – but rather, in community. Do you have someone in your life to be open with about your journey of trusting God more?
8. Your spirit has been fully transformed by grace through faith **(past)**. Your body will be fully transformed by grace through faith **(future)**. Your soul is in the process of being fully transformed **(present)**. In what specific ways are you being proactive in allowing the Holy Spirit to transform you by the renewing of your mind? Discuss...