

## Day 17 - Commitment to Growth

Infants don't need elaborate meals to fuel their growth. They need pure milk rich with nutrients. Our journey of growth with Jesus is similar. As Peter says in chapter 2, verse 2 in his first letter:

“<sup>2</sup> Like newborn infants, desire the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow up into your salvation.”

The word of God is vital in every stage of our growth to be like Jesus and do the things He did.

Are you getting the growth benefits of God's word consistently? Why or why not?

While the word of God is vital for all of life, we must cultivate a commitment to growing with Jesus through our lives' highs and lows.

Our focus scripture for today is Philippians 3:12–14

“<sup>12</sup> Not that I have already reached the goal or am already perfect, but I make every effort to take hold of it because I also have been taken hold of by Christ Jesus. <sup>13</sup> Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and reaching forward to what is ahead, <sup>14</sup> I pursue as my goal the prize promised by God's heavenly call in Christ Jesus.”

Being transformed by Jesus is not an overnight process. Transformation is not a quick fix but a lifelong, committed journey. None of us will ever arrive or become spiritually elite. Many make the mistake that transformation is only behavior modification or “trying not to sin” from willpower alone. But Paul gives powerful insight showing us that consistently forgetting what is behind and reaching forward to what is ahead is vital for transformation. None of us will stumble into growth. We are progressively transformed through the power and overabundant supply of grace in the gospel. It will take grace-empowered effort to remain committed to growth into Christlikeness.

Pause to thank Him for His word, His empowering grace, and His presence in your life's highs and lows.

As an invitation to a spiritual practice—a way to say “yes, Lord,” grab a sheet of paper and use the acronym **PRAY** to respond to God's empowering grace. **P** stands for *praise*. Write down a list of reasons why God is worthy of praise. **R** stands for *rejoice*. Write down a few reasons why you are grateful. **A** stands for *apply*. What from God's word do you need to apply today? And **Y** stand for *yes*. What “yes” do you need to lay down at God's feet to remain committed to the journey of growth to be like Jesus?

Prepare to walk with God into the day before us, the Lord who loves us says in:

Philippians 1:6 “<sup>6</sup> I am sure of this, that He who started a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”

Father, help us discern where you are leading us as a church - making Your invitation clear.

Jesus, help us become worshipers, friends, apprentices, and guides who live as disciple-makers in all areas of our everyday.

Spirit, help us become a disciple-making hub, loving the lost and proclaiming Jesus in all we do and say so our communities will flourish.