



Sanctification

PART 2



BUILD YOUR LIFE ON THE FOUNDATION OF 11 CORE BIBLICAL TRUTHS



Life Change Objective

To decide to trust grace rather than law for your growth, God's process rather than your plan for your growth, and God's promise rather than your willpower for your growth.

In the last session we learned that sanctified means “set apart” (saint comes from the same root word).

In the Old Testament it was most often the places and objects of worship that were called “set apart” for God's honor and use:

Holy priests (Ex. 28:41)

Holy garments (Ex. 29:21)

A holy altar (Ex. 30:10)

The Holy Land (Lev. 27:21)

In the New Testament it is all God's people that are “set apart” for God's honor and use:

If a man cleanses himself from the latter, he will be an instrument for noble purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work.

—2 Timothy 2:21

And we looked at the first two of the five ways we put faith in God for our sanctification:

1. The two focuses of sanctification
2. The two natures of the Christian

You cannot create growth; that is God's job. But you can cooperate with the way that God grows us. In this session we're going to look at three additional ways that we have faith in what God is doing to grow us.

The Power of _____ over the _____

Just as we are justified by faith and grace, we are sanctified by faith and grace.

You began your life in Christ by the Spirit. Now are you trying to make it complete by your own power? That is foolish.

—Galatians 3:3 (NCV)

As you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so continue to live in him.

—Colossians 2:6 (NCV)

- By faith you can say, “I am _____ from the law.”

The law is not dead; it is not even “bad”—as the old nature is. The law is just not capable of bringing us salvation. It can show us our sin, but it cannot make us right before God.

Through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit that brings life made me free from the law that brings sin and death.

—Romans 8:2 (NCV)

That old law had glory, but it really loses its glory when it is compared to the much greater glory of this new way.

—2 Corinthians 3:10 (NCV)

- By faith you can say, “I have a _____!”

Now you are free from sin, your old master, and you have become slaves to your new master, righteousness.

—Romans 6:18 (NLT)

In the past, the law held us like prisoners, but our old selves died, and we were made free from the law. So now we serve God in a new way with the Spirit, and not in the old way with written rules.

—Romans 7:6 (NCV)

The _____ of Growth

- By faith you ask God to _____.

You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

—Ephesians 4:22–24

In the last session we looked at putting off the old and putting on the new. Being renewed in your mind is the often forgotten step in this process. Inner renewal is the key to outer transformation.

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.
—Romans 12:2

Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.
—2 Corinthians 4:16

Ephesians 4:25–32 helps us to see that a key aspect of this inner renewal is the ability to see God's positive reasons for making a change. A renewed mind has the ability to see things the way that God sees them. It centers on the new way of viewing the world that has been our focus in this *Foundations* study.

Put off the old self	Put on the new self	Renewed in your minds
Put off falsehood ...	... speak truthfully to his neighbor ...	... for we are all members of one body.
In your anger do not sin ...	... do not let the sun go down while you are still angry ...	... do not give the devil a foothold.
He who has been stealing must steal no longer ...	... but must work ...	... that he may have something to share with those in need.
Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths ...	... but only what is helpful for building others up ...	... do not grieve the Holy Spirit.
Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander ...	... be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other ...	... just as in Christ God forgave you.

- By faith you practice the _____.

Spend your time and energy in training yourself for spiritual fitness.
—1 Timothy 4:7 (NLT)

Discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness.
—1 Timothy 4:7 (NASB)



A Closer Look

Three of the most important disciplines of growth through which God sanctifies us are:

1. A daily quiet time—in God's Word and prayer

Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

—Matthew 4:4

Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.

—John 17:17

2. A weekly tithe to God

"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it."

—Malachi 3:10

And they gave in a way we did not expect: They first gave themselves to the Lord and to us. This is what God wants.

—2 Corinthians 8:5 (NCV)

3. A regular commitment to a small group

So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God's holy people. You are members of God's family.

—Ephesians 2:19 (NLT)

- By faith you choose to trust God in the _____.

God has allowed our choice to be one of the key factors in our growth. One of the most important choices we make is our response to the difficulties and trials we all face as a part of life.

Dear brothers, is your life full of difficulties and temptations? Then be happy, for when the way is rough, your patience has a chance to grow. So let it grow, and don't try to squirm out of your problems. For when your patience is finally in full bloom, then you will be ready for anything, strong in character, full and complete.

—James 1:2–4 (LB)

We also have joy with our troubles, because we know that these troubles produce patience. And patience produces character, and character produces hope. And this hope will never disappoint us, because God has poured out his love to fill our hearts. He gave us his love through the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to us.

—Romans 5:3–5 (NCV)

So even though Jesus was God's Son, he learned obedience from the things he suffered.

—Hebrews 5:8 (NLT)

God's Promise to _____

What is the ultimate goal that God is working toward in your life?

The goal is to be like Christ.

We know that in everything God works for the good of those who love him. They are the people he called, because that was his plan. God knew them before he made the world, and he decided that they would be like his Son so that Jesus would be the firstborn of many brothers.

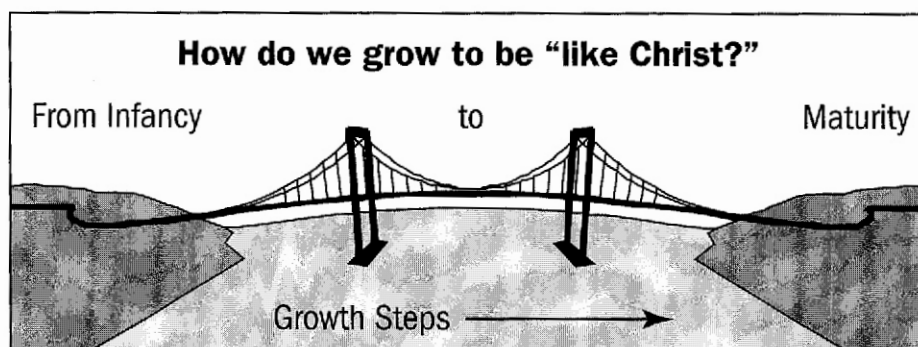
—Romans 8:28–29 (NCV)

We know that when Christ comes again, we will be like him, because we will see him as he really is.

—1 John 3:2 (NCV)

This work must continue until we are all joined together in the same faith and in the same knowledge of the Son of God. We must become like a mature person, growing until we become like Christ and have his perfection.

—Ephesians 4:13 (NCV)



- By faith you believe in God's ability to accomplish his work in your life.

You are not alone. God is working for your growth. He is working to make you like his Son, Jesus.

God is _____ to your growth.

And I consecrate myself to meet their need for growth in truth and holiness.

—John 17:19 (LB)

Long ago, even before he made the world, God chose us to be his very own, through what Christ would do for us; he decided then to make us holy in his eyes, without a single fault—we who stand before him covered with his love.

—Ephesians 1:4 (LB)

Our motivational power: God _____ us and is _____ for us to be sanctified.

He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

—Philippians 1:6



Key Personal Perspective

Growth is not accomplished by _____, but by _____.

Trust means: We work out what God works in.

Continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.

—Philippians 2:12–13

And now—all glory to him who alone is God, who saves us through Jesus Christ our Lord; yes, splendor and majesty, all power and authority are his from the beginning; his they are and his they evermore shall be. And he is able to keep you from slipping and falling away, and to bring you, sinless and perfect, into his glorious presence with mighty shouts of everlasting joy. Amen.

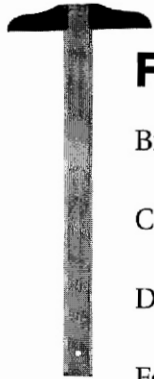
—Jude 1:24–25 (LB)

Finish memorizing memory card 7, “The Truth about Sanctification.”



Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think some get pulled into thinking we can measure our spiritual growth based solely on how we keep laws or rules?
2. What are two or three practical things that we can do to cooperate with God in his desire to renew our minds?
3. Which of the disciplines of growth do you find God using the most frequently and/or the most effectively in your life?
4. The goal of becoming completely like Christ will never be fully realized by any of us while on this earth. What are the practical and personal ways that you keep from getting discouraged as you reach for a goal you won't reach until you get to heaven?



For Further Study

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- Nouwen, Henri J. M. *Reaching Out: The Three Movements of the Spiritual Life*. New York: Doubleday, 1986.
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Answers to Fill-Ins

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|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| grace | circumstances of life |
| law | finish his work |
| free | committed |
| new master | wants |
| daily process | working |
| renew your mind | trying hard |
| disciplines of growth | trusting him |