

From the Deacon's Desk:

Growing in Christ; How to grow Spiritually.

As a seed grows when it is planted and watered, followers of Christ grow in spiritual maturity when they are planted and watered in the good news of the gospel.

In the Bible, Matthew 12: 3-8, Jesus describes a fictional scene of a farmer planting seeds. Some seeds fall on the path, some on rocky places, some on thorns, and some on good soil, but only the seeds that fall on good soil grow into healthy plants. Jesus explains the meaning of the story this way: The one who hears the Word of God and understands it is the one who grows in their faith (v.23).

The Christian life is a relationship with God that develops over time. To grow in spiritual maturity (that is, to grow spiritually) is to look more like the person God designed you to be, more like Jesus.

Peter, a leader in the early church describes this growth in another way: "We have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his (God's) will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worth of the Lord. (Colossians 1:9-10).

Church family, the type of person that God wants you to be is one who is characterized by His qualities: "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

These are tips that can help you in your spiritual growth:

1. Read the Bible; start with the book of John.
2. Become more intentional about taking steps of faith; talk to your friends and loved ones about Jesus.
3. Understand and experience living in the power of the Holy Spirit.
4. Get together with friends to pray together and learn from each other your spiritual growth.
5. Mentor someone else to help them and yourself to grow in spiritual grace.

Spiritual maturity looks different for every person. Compare yourselves to what the Bible says and not how others are doing. When you have faith in God, it will show itself in how you live your life.

This is a journey that lasts a lifetime.

In Christ ++

Deacon Melvin Burton Jr.