

# PERSPECTIVES

## Message 5 – George Shinn

### Announcements

Register for Pathway classes at [ChurchoftheKing.com](http://ChurchoftheKing.com)

- **101 Starting Point** – Sunday, September 7th, 5:00 pm at all campuses. Starting Point is the first step toward getting involved at Church of the King by learning about the vision and mission of the church.
- **201 Dream Team Orientation** – Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, 5:00 at all Campuses. *Serving Changes Lives* so come find your place to serve!
- **301 Biblical Foundation** – Starts Monday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, 7pm at all campuses. This eight-week class is designed to help you grow in your understanding of the Bible and in your relationship with God.
- **401 Small Group Training** – Sunday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, 5:00 pm at the Little Creek Campus. Come learn how to help people you know grow in their relationship with Christ.

### Warm-up

What is the most outrageous item you have ever purchased as a result of getting caught up in a “fad?” Why was your purchase so appealing?

### Word and Application

Read **John 16:33** and **1 Peter 1:6-7**. How can our challenges help us grow?

Spiritual growth is not a fad, but it’s something God has designed all of us to experience.

What do you think it means to grow spiritually?

In our discussion we will define spiritual growth as the progression in our relationship with Christ and the growth in our Christ-like character.

Today we are going to discuss three key principles we must apply to our lives in order to experience spiritual growth.

#### 1) Align with God’s purposes for our life.

Read **James 4:8** and **Jeremiah 29:13**. In order to align yourself with God’s purposes for your life you must grow closer to him. We can draw closer to God through Bible engagement, prayer, godly relationships and serving.

What do you think God’s purposes for your life are? What are you doing to accomplish his purposes?

#### 2) Know challenges are inevitable

Read **Genesis 39:6-20**

What do you think Joseph was thinking when he was put in prison for something he did not do?

How do you think you would respond in a situation like this?

**Read Genesis 39:21-23** to understand what happened to Joseph when he continued to put his trust in God despite the challenges he faced.

What does this story of Joseph teach us about how we should approach the challenge that we face in life?

**Read Romans 5:3-5, James 1:2-4.** Struggles may initially seem contrary to the Christian life, but they are actually a vital part of our growth. If you aren't facing challenges and are not having to press through some adversity, you probably aren't growing. It is our faith in the face of challenges, which bring about growth and help us fulfill God's purposes for our lives.

What is a challenge that you are currently facing or have faced? What are you able to learn from the challenge as you rely on God?

### 3) Expect consistent and fruitful progress

If we continue to read the story of Joseph (Genesis 40-41), we find he was able to foresee a worldwide famine through the interpretation of Pharaoh's dream. Due to his insight, Joseph was able to prepare the whole country of Egypt as well as much of the known world.

When we yield and commit to growing and becoming what God has called us to be, we never know in the grand scheme how God is going to use us.

Share a time in your life when you have kept your focus on God through challenges. How did your faith in God help you grow?

#### **Read 2 Peter 3:18**

We must be committed to the process of spiritual growth. Church of the King has developed the **PATHWAY**. This is an intentional process of classes designed to lay foundations and help develop relationships in your life that will help you grow in God.

The **Pathway** consists of:

**101 Starting Point** – Learn about the mission, vision, values and structure of Church of the King.

**201 Dream Team Orientation** – *Serving changes lives* and you can be a part of lives being changed.

**301 Biblical Foundations** – Gain a foundation of Biblical knowledge to help you grow spiritually.

**401 Small Group Training** – Get equipped to help people grow in their relationship with God.

What is God speaking to you through the small group discussion today?

**Prayer**

We have discussed what it takes to grow spiritually, so let's ask God to help us all take steps to grow closer to him.