



Warm-up

What is the craziest thing that you have ever purchased as a result of getting caught up in a “fad?” Why was your purchase so appealing to you?

The Word

As we begin our discussion on what it takes to grow spiritually, we must first realize that there are no shortcuts to experiencing growth.

Today we are going to discuss three key principles we must apply to our lives in order to experience spiritual growth and the ability to live out our faith in Christ.

1) We must align with God’s purposes for our lives.

What do you think you need to do in order to align yourself with God’s purpose for your life?

Our purposes will become clear as we get to know God through studying the Bible, praying, and being connected in godly relationships.

2) We 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?

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 challenges that we face in life?

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 (Romans 5:3-5, James 1:2-4).

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) We should expect consistent and fruitful progress.

If we continue to read the story of Joseph (Genesis 40-41), we find out that by interpreting Pharaoh's dreams, he was able to foresee a worldwide famine. By foreseeing the famine, 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 kept your focus on God, and because of that you saw consistent growth, despite some challenges that may have arisen.

Read 2 Peter 3:17-18

We must be committed to the process of spiritual growth. In order to assist in spiritual growth, Church of the King has developed the **PATHWAY**. This is an intentional process of classes and experiences designed to lay foundations in your life that will help you grow in your relationship with God.

PATHWAY is made up of the following:

- Membership/Starting Point (first Sunday of every month at the Little Creek Campus at 5:00 pm)
- Water Baptism
- Biblical Foundations (10-week course beginning Monday, March 14th, at 7:00 pm)
- Spirit-filled Life
- Foundations of Freedom
- How to Make a Disciple
- Small Group Training

(for more information or to sign up for PATHWAY classes go to <http://churchoftheking.com/page/pathway>)

Don't miss your opportunity to get involved in PATHWAY today in order to grow in your relationship with God.

Prayer

Ask God to help the small group members to grow in their relationship with God by knowing how to face the challenges of life by keeping their focus on God.