

Taking your Spirituality to the Next Level

January 9th, 2011

Ephesians 4:14 Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth.

7 Laws of Spiritual Growth Growth is...

1. Intentional

Myth: Growth is automatic *Fact: Is a choice*

Joshua 24:14-16 So fear the LORD and serve him wholeheartedly. Put away forever (the) idols...Serve the LORD alone...choose today whom you will serve...But as for me and my family, we will serve the LORD.

2. Incremental

Myth: Can be instant *Fact: A gradual process*

Galatians 6:9 So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up.

3. Personal

Myth: Can attain it by yourself *Fact: Can't grow without others*

Hebrews 10:23-25 Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise. ²⁴ Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. ²⁵ And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.

4. Practical

Myth: Measured by beliefs *Fact: Beliefs & behavior*

James 2:26 Just as the body is dead without breath, so also faith is dead without good works.

5. Relational

Myth: How you act at church *Fact: How you act at home & world*

Galatians 5:13-15 For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don't use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love. ¹⁴ For the whole law can be summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁵ But if you are always biting and devouring one another, watch out! Beware of destroying one another.

6. Multi dimensional

Myth: By attending church *Fact: By developing habits*

Acts 2:44-47 And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. ⁴⁵ They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. ⁴⁶ They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity—⁴⁷ all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.

Warmer through fellowship...

Deeper through discipleship...

Stronger through worship...

Broader through ministry...

Larger through mission!

7. Incarnational

Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in my body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."

What is my next step?

2 Corinthians 13:9 Our greatest wish and prayer is that you will become mature Christians. (LB)