

**Reading:** Psalm 139:1-6

**Topic:** Growing & Changing

**INTRODUCTION:** It is very important to understand that there is no \_\_\_\_\_ that we arrive at that we will be able to say, "I have \_\_\_\_\_ and don't need to grow anymore."

## I. KNOWING WHERE WE ARE NOW:

### A. Self-Awareness:

1. It has been said that there are really three perspectives on who we \_\_\_\_\_: 1. The person that we appear to be to \_\_\_\_\_, 2. The person that we \_\_\_\_\_ we are; 3. The person that God \_\_\_\_\_ we are. Ps. 139:1
2. If we are to continue to \_\_\_\_\_ and advance in our spiritual lives and in leadership of others, we do need to be \_\_\_\_\_ to knowing where we are presently at. Ps. 139:23,24

### B. Assessment:

1. Any individual or leader who is planning to be continually \_\_\_\_\_ must understand the importance of taking inventory of both \_\_\_\_\_ and weaknesses in order to improve. Rom. 7:21
2. Strengths can be used as building \_\_\_\_\_ for further growth and progress, while weaknesses must be worked on in order to \_\_\_\_\_ our effectiveness to minister. Phil. 3:12-15
3. Every individual needs to understand that ignoring weaknesses can \_\_\_\_\_ to trouble in the future as we become more involved in ministry, so they need to be \_\_\_\_\_ on now. Jn. 12:3-6

## II. BECOMING A HEALTHY LEADER:

### A. Spiritually:

1. The worst thing a person involved in \_\_\_\_\_ or leadership can do is to rely on their own intelligence and abilities to do the \_\_\_\_\_ that needs to be done. I Cor. 2:4,5
2. We must remain strongly connected to the \_\_\_\_\_ of our power and anointing – God, and if we do not maintain our strong daily \_\_\_\_\_ time, we will be a powerless minister. Jn. 15:5
3. Feeding our souls daily with the \_\_\_\_\_ of God and filling our minds with good positive resources of reading, worship \_\_\_\_\_ and teachings will reinforce our spiritual lives. Phil. 4:8

### B. Physically:

1. It is again important to be reminded that our \_\_\_\_\_ is the temple of God and the \_\_\_\_\_ that God works through to \_\_\_\_\_ to others, so it must be properly maintained. I Cor. 6:19,20
2. Proper eating habits must be developed and adhered to along with proper \_\_\_\_\_, mixed in with a balance of \_\_\_\_\_ exercise to maintain good health.
3. If our vessel breaks down, we will be ineffective in trying to \_\_\_\_\_ to others.

### C. Mentally:

1. Our mind is the \_\_\_\_\_ to growth and development, and our thinking patterns have a \_\_\_\_\_ impact on how effective we are in ministry, either for the good or the negative. Mk. 11:23
2. We must understand the necessity of changing some of our \_\_\_\_\_ thinking patterns and habits

by intentionally focusing on what is faith building and \_\_\_\_\_ for God operates in the realm of faith.  
3. Changing our poor thinking patterns requires \_\_\_\_\_ and effort, and it takes strength and desire to change thoughts. I Cor. 2:16

### III. LEARNING & CHANGING:

#### ***A. Always A Student:***

1. Unfortunately, some leaders become know-it-alls, and because they have attained a \_\_\_\_\_ of leadership and authority, they think they don't need to \_\_\_\_\_ anything new thus becoming stunted in their \_\_\_\_\_. I Cor. 8:2
2. When you stop \_\_\_\_\_, then you will stop \_\_\_\_\_ so always be open to learning and developing yourself to become more \_\_\_\_\_ in the work of God. 2 Tim. 2:15

#### ***B. Changing:***

1. Growth means \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ can be challenging, especially if we have been caught in a rut of doing things a \_\_\_\_\_ way for a long time. Deut. 2:1-3
2. Remember this – the Message of the Gospel and the plan of \_\_\_\_\_ never changes, and the Word of God never changes, but understand that \_\_\_\_\_ need to change in order to reach people with the Gospel. I Cor. 9:20-23 (marry the Message but don't even go steady with a method)
3. Some churches and ministries never attract many \_\_\_\_\_ people, not because they don't want to, but they are fishing with \_\_\_\_\_ that no longer attracts the fish.

**CONCLUSION:** Our effectiveness in \_\_\_\_\_ and leadership is contingent upon our intentional efforts to grow and \_\_\_\_\_ to become better in the Kingdom of God.