

**Reading:** John 15:1-8

**Topic:** Why Some People Do Not Grow Spiritually

**INTRODUCTION:** In the church and in the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ, one may observe that some people do not seem to grow much beyond their initial \_\_\_\_\_ and there are several reasons why.

## I. LACK OF UNDERSTANDING ABOUT RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD:

### ***A. Salvation Experience:***

1. Some people are drawn by the Spirit of God and they \_\_\_\_\_ the Gospel, recognize their need of the Savior and they willingly \_\_\_\_\_ to the Word of God. Acts 2:37
2. These people do repent of their sins, they are \_\_\_\_\_ in Jesus' Name and receive the wonderful Experience of the Spirit of God \_\_\_\_\_ their lives, and they are born again. Acts 2:38

### ***B. Not Nurturing The Relationship With Jesus:***

1. Unfortunately some of these people do not grasp or understand the \_\_\_\_\_ of establishing the daily practice of being in \_\_\_\_\_ and the Word of God. Lk. 21:36
2. The lack of nurturing the daily relationship with the Lord Jesus, stunts the \_\_\_\_\_ growth of the new believer, and leaves them \_\_\_\_\_ and vulnerable to the attacks of the adversary. Lk. 13:6-9
3. The lack of understanding of what it takes to \_\_\_\_\_ spiritually – daily \_\_\_\_\_, the Word of God and going to the House of God leads to not just stunted spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ but it can also lead to the falling away from God altogether. Eph. 5:17

### ***C. Lacking Patience:***

1. Some people picture themselves becoming spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ overnight, with visions of grandeur of performing great \_\_\_\_\_ for God, not realizing that it takes time to get there. James 5:7,8
2. One of the greatest lessons to \_\_\_\_\_ in serving God is the lesson of \_\_\_\_\_, that it is a process to grow into a spiritual giant. James 1:4

## II. LACK OF SPIRITUAL FELLOWSHIP & MENTORING:

### ***A. The Need of Spiritual Partners:***

1. The Word of God likens the believers to a \_\_\_\_\_ and each one a member that the body needs to properly function, and each member that also needs the \_\_\_\_\_ to survive. I Cor. 12:27
2. Everyone should have a spiritual partner to be accountable to – someone to \_\_\_\_\_ with and share with, and when one is feeling weak and weary, the partner will be \_\_\_\_\_ to help and to encourage the other. Ecc. 4:9,10

### ***B. The Need To Assemble For Worship:***

1. The daily personal spiritual life of every believer is essential to spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ and survival, but the Lord also provided the avenue of corporate worship and \_\_\_\_\_ of His body together to provide edification, comfort and direction for every believer. I Cor. 14:26
2. The Scripture urges all \_\_\_\_\_ to not forsake the gathering of themselves together, especially as the \_\_\_\_\_ days come upon the world. Heb. 10:25

## III. OTHER HINDRANCES TO GROWTH:

### **A. Not Totally Forsaking Sin & The World:**

1. Some people experience the New Birth and begin their \_\_\_\_\_ with God, but do not want to give up entirely their old \_\_\_\_\_ and some of the sins that go with it. 2 Tim. 4:10
2. Jesus made it clear that if anyone wanted to seriously \_\_\_\_\_ Him, it would require a process of self denial and dying to the old \_\_\_\_\_ of sin. Lk. 9:23
3. The only way to overcome and live in victory is to be \_\_\_\_\_ before God, to own up to the fact that one is doing wrong and then \_\_\_\_\_ it to God and repent, asking for forgiveness. I Jn. 1:9

### **B. Living On Emotions & Feelings:**

1. The experience of being born again brings one into the Kingdom of \_\_\_\_\_ which is described in the Scripture as righteousness, peace and \_\_\_\_\_ in the Holy Ghost. Rom. 14:17
2. Because the emotion of great \_\_\_\_\_ is such a good feeling, and the reality of walking with God brings us some days without any \_\_\_\_\_, some people tend to give up when difficult times come.
3. The Word of God declares that we walk by \_\_\_\_\_, not by what we see or feel that is going on in the world around us. 2 Cor. 5:7

### **C. Overloading Daily Life & Leaving No Time For God:**

1. Some people do not \_\_\_\_\_ spiritually because they do not use wisdom, and take on so many things in their lives until they leave very little or no \_\_\_\_\_ for God. Mk. 4:19
2. This unfortunately leads to the weakening and no growth of the spiritual \_\_\_\_\_, and in many cases leads to the spiritual life completely dying.

### **D. Spiritual Pride:**

1. There is an old spiritual proverb that states, "If the devil can't \_\_\_\_\_ you from going with God, then he will try to \_\_\_\_\_ you too far.
2. When spiritual pride gets into the \_\_\_\_\_ and mind of any believer, it will stop spiritual growth and eventually lead to deception as the know-it-all spirit takes \_\_\_\_\_ their life. Pr. 16:18

**CONCLUSION:** It would be fantastic if everyone who \_\_\_\_\_ out to follow Jesus would become strong in the Lord and continue \_\_\_\_\_ and serving God until the rapture, but reality reveals to us that many who start do not grow beyond their initial saving experience. This is certainly not the will of God – He desires that all go and \_\_\_\_\_ until the He comes again. Mt. 10:22