

GROW YOUR HEART

"Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life"

Proverbs 4:23

Moving from "Exploring" to "Growing"

"And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men"

Luke 2:52

"It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ."

Ephesians 4:11-15

WHAT DOES GROWING UP IN CHRIST LOOK LIKE?

"We will in all things grow up in Him"

Ephesians 4:15

1. Being a **FULLY DEVOTED FOLLOWER OF CHRIST**
"Come and follow me..." Matthew 4:19
2. An ever increasing love for **GOD** and **OTHERS**
"Jesus replied: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" Matthew 22:37-39
3. **PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP** with Jesus Christ
"And he was called God's friend" James 2:23
4. **TRANSFORMATION**, not information
"Be transformed by the renewing of your mind" Romans 12:2
5. Moving toward **HEALING** and **WHOLENESS**
"He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds." Psalm 147:3

SOMEONE EXPLORING CHRISTIANITY MIGHT...

- Believe in God but not sure about Jesus
- Think the Bible is irrelevant
- Need help interpreting spiritual matters
- Turn to God only in times of crises
- See things of faith as not important

WHEN DOES FAITH BECOME IMPORTANT?

1. Realize something is **MISSING**
2. Negative patterns need **CHANGING**
3. Searching for a **HIGHER PURPOSE**
4. Become interested in **SPIRITUAL THINGS**
5. Want your children to be **EXPOSED TO JESUS**

MOVING FROM EXPLORING TO GROWING

1. Usually starts with a friend **INVITING**
"We have found the One...come and see" John 1:45
2. Includes getting connected with **BELIEVERS**
Practice the "One Anothers"
3. Always involves attending **RELEVANT WORSHIP**
"...the Father is looking for just such worshipers" John 4:23
4. Makes reflecting on the Bible **PRIORITY**
"Your Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path" Psalm 119:105
5. Accepts that salvation is a **GIFT OF GRACE**
"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast." Ephesians 2:8-9

WHERE ARE YOU?

_____ EXPLORING? _____ GROWING?
Exploring....try ABC