

Series: Renewing Our Strength

Title: 10 Characteristics of Spiritual Growth

Text: (Ps 92:12-15)

(Ps 92:12-15) No Retirement

(2 Pet 3:18) Grace and Knowledge – No Backing Off!!!

(Phil 3:7-14)

1. **Hunger for God:** Ps 42:1-2 Phil 3:10 Know Him!
2. **Hunger for the Truth of God's Word:** (Matt 5:6)
(1 Pet 2:2 Spiritual Hunger.
3. **Greater Sensitivity of Sin in our life:**
(Is 6:5) Our Conscience on a loud speaker!!!
4. **Decreasing Desire for Worldly Pleasures:**
(I Jn 5:4-5)(I Jn 2:15) *Love not the World!*
5. **Easier to Love the Unlovely:** (Lk 6:32-35)
Love not based on their performance!
6. **Easier to Forgive Others:** (Lk 6:36-37)
7. **Increasing Desire to Obey God:** (Jn 14:15, 23)

Illus: Not Motivated by fear, like from an Abusive Parent, but as a loving Father. (2 Cor 5:14-15) Love of Christ Constrains.

8. **Ever Increasing Faith:** The Storms stretch our faith!
Matt 14:28-31 Peter on the water. The Storms are less frightening. You have been down this path before! 1 Jn 5:4
9. **Increasing concern for the spiritual condition of others:**
Illus: Everyone is a ministry opportunity. People are not a means, but the End!
 - a. **Find out where they are:** *Take them to the next step!*
 - b. **Soul Winning:** Not a Freak show, but soul winning!!
PS 126:5-6
10. **Increasing Awareness of God's Presence:** There are warm feelings of God's presence: Ex 33:14-15, Ps 16:11 Joy and pleasure in His presence, *Illus: It is a real joy to be around some people. By the way If you think you are one of those people, but you suffer from loneliness, then your aren't!* He is a real person, Ps 100:1-5

What took our gaze off Jesus? Heb 12:2

Was it Affluence: Things are going so good we forget we need God?

(Deut 6:10-18)

(Deut 8:10-14)

Did we get Offended?

(2 Kings 6:1-7)

We have a choice!

(Heb 12:15) *Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God;*

Not the Loss of salvation, but **Failing to keep pace with what the grace of God** wants to do in our lives can result in bitterness in us, which causes trouble to others.

Are we going to exercise the grace of God?

Did we get Distracted?

What took the place of God as our priority?

Where was it that we lost our way?

When was it we stopped being excited about Foundational 5?

When was it we started being critical of others?

When was it we stopped caring for others?

What took our gaze off Jesus? (Heb 12:2)

It's Time to repent and rekindle our intimacy with Christ.

It happens to all of us- (1 Jn 1:9)

We do not Grow ourselves.

God Grows Us as We Submit to Him: (Rom 8:28-29)