

Wednesday Night BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday, May 13, 2026 – First Baptist Church Buda
Midweek Prayer Meeting & Bible Study



COLOSSIANS: ROOTED IN CHRIST – PART 3 *“What Spiritual Growth Looks Like”* *Colossians 1:9-12*

“¹Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, ²To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ who are in Colosse: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ³We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, ⁴since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of your love for all the saints; ⁵because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel, ⁶which has come to you, as it has also in all the world, and is bringing forth fruit, as it is also among you since the day you heard and knew the grace of God in truth; ⁷as you also learned from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf, ⁸who also declared to us your love in the Spirit.” – Colossians 1:1-8

“⁹For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; ¹⁰that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; ¹¹strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; ¹²giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.” – Colossians 1:9-12 (NKJV)

BIBLICAL BACKGROUND FOR COLOSSIANS

The following is some of the general background information for the book of Colossians. Let's quickly review what we have previously said about the book of Colossians just to give us a bit of context...

Some General Background Information on Colossians:

- (1) **The author of Colossians = The Apostle Paul** - The Apostle Paul identifies himself as the author (1:1; 4:18)
- (2) **An important character in Colossians = Epaphras** - Epaphras likely planted the church by bringing the gospel he heard under Paul in Ephesus (Acts 19:10) back to his home city of Colossae (1:7; 4:12)
- (3) **Date, place and type of writing = A.D. 60-62, A prison epistle/letter written from Rome** - Paul writes this letter from a Roman prison around 60-62 AD (4:16)
- (4) **Important information about Colossae = Small but diverse city** - Colossae was a small but diverse city in Rome's Asia province, modern day Turkey
- (5) **2 key words to understand Colossae = Pluralism and syncretism** - They were immersed in an environment of pluralism and syncretism where most people simply borrowed from the religious and philosophical ideas of the day
- (6) **Identified false teaching/doctrine in Colossians = "The Colossian Heresy"** - Throughout the book Paul hints at a "Colossian heresy." However, he focuses on Christ-centered, correct teaching rather than the contents of the false teaching
- (7) **What we know about this false teaching/doctrine = It is "not according to Christ"** - Whatever this false teaching is, it is "not according to Christ" (2:8) and it undermines the sole supremacy and sufficiency of Jesus
- (8) **John Calvin's summary of Colossians = "This Epistle...to express it in one word, distinguishes the true Christ from a fictitious one."**
- (9) **Layout of the book = Half doctrinal, half practical** - Like other Pauline letters, the first half builds a rich theology that the second half exhorts us to then live out
- (10) **Relation to other N.T. books = Ephesians and Colossians are companion books** - These two books/letters were written around the same time, and they overlap greatly and can help explain one another

Our theme verse for this study is **Colossians 2:6-7**. This passage not only serves as a premise for this particular study, it also identifies a primary purpose for Paul's letter...

"As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, ⁷rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving." -Colossians 2:6-7 (NKJV)

Theme Verse Truths (Colossians 2:6-7):

- (1) **If you are truly saved you will show it by walking in Him** – What does it mean to "walk in Him"?

- (2) **Genuine Christians will continue to grow in Him and never stop growing** – Why is this true? How do we grow? Being saved and coming into relationship with Jesus Christ is only the beginning of a life time of adventure. You have not arrived with you accept Christ. You are to go on and continue to grow and “abound” in Him. If you ever stop growing, reaching, striving, pushing further in toward Christ and Christlikeness you will stagnate and die.
- (3) **The faith of a truly saved believer will be established and not fluctuating** - Does this mean that our faith never comes under attack or that at times it doesn’t grow weak and perhaps even a bit shaky? Explain our answer
- (4) **An important part of growing in your faith is to be teachable and to sit under solid Biblical teaching** – A person claiming to be a Christian but doesn’t love the teaching and preaching of the Word, won’t humbly submit themselves to the teaching of the Word, won’t spend time in God’s Word loving it, cherishing it, hungering for it is an oxymoron (contradiction, paradox, self-contradiction) and anomaly (incongruity, abnormality, gross inconsistency)
- (5) **A spirit of thankfulness and expressed gratitude will exude from the life of a genuinely saved individual (*even in the harshest of circumstances*)** -

The following are some “application questions” that may help us probe a bit deeper at the how and why of spiritual growth in our lives as believers...

Application Questions

1. **What has helped you most to grow spiritually?**
2. **How would you help a struggling Christian who said, “How can I walk worthily of the Lord when I feel so unworthy?”**
3. **What should we do if we don’t feel like pleasing God? Is it hypocritical to obey when we don’t feel like it?**
4. **Spiritual growth often seems so slow. Is there any way to speed up the process? How?**

One thing I love about kids is their strong desire to grow up. The late pastor Ray Stedman said that once he asked a boy how old he was. Quick as a flash he said, “I’m twelve, going on thirteen, almost fourteen.” He was eager to grow up. It seems today that sometimes kids/children are forced to grow up to quick and that they seem like they are 12 going of 20 before we know it...

Every parent has a growth chart somewhere on a wall or closet door, where you measure your kids’ heights every few months. When they see how much they’ve grown, they beam with delight. I remember going to Six Flags as a kid and discovering that I didn’t quite reach the bottom of the sign that gave the height requirement for driving the miniature cars. Wow, was I disappointed! Finally, of course, I reached that goal, but that only whet my appetite to turn 16 so that I could get my driver’s license and drive a real car. I wanted to grow up!

As a parent, it always brings great joy when your kids grow old enough to learn what pleases you and then they do it. “Daddy, I helped Mommy bake your favorite cookies!” “Daddy, I knew you didn’t feel well, so I made you a card!” You know that they’re growing because they want to do things to please you.

Have you ever thought about what spiritual growth looks like? Can you measure it by how often you go to church or by how many ministries you’re involved in or by how much you give? Sometimes those things may reflect spiritual growth, but they aren’t at the heart of it. At the heart of spiritual growth is learning how God wants us to live so that as His children, we can please Him by living that way. In his prayer for these new Colossian believers, Paul shows what spiritual growth looks like:

KEY THOUGHT: Spiritual growth means growing to know how God wants us to live so that we seek to please Him in all things.

“⁹ For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; ¹⁰ that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; ¹¹ strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; ¹² giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.” – Colossians 1:9-12 (NKJV)

I’m approaching this prayer as a picture of spiritual growth, but don’t miss the fact that it is a prayer. It shows us how Paul prayed for these new believers, most of whom he did not know personally. Along with Paul’s other recorded prayers (Eph. 1:15-23; 3:14-21; Phil. 1:9-11; 1 Thess. 3:9-13; 2 Thess. 1:3-12), we can learn how to pray for our families, our friends, for ourselves, and for other believers. When Paul says here that he and Timothy had *“not ceased to pray”* for the Colossians, he means that they had often remembered them in their prayers. Use this prayer as a guide for your prayers!

Paul’s prayer here actually begins in verses 3-8, where he thanked God for their faith in Christ Jesus, their love for all the saints, and the hope laid up for them in heaven. Now he tells them his request, that they would be filled with the knowledge of God’s will so that they will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, pleasing Him in every way. Then he lists four things that please the Lord (indicated by four participles in the Greek text):

4 Things to Know that Please the Lord: (According to Colossians 1:9-12)

(1) Bearing fruit for every good work

(2) Increasing in knowledge of God

(3) Being strengthened with God’s power so that we can steadfastly and patiently endure trials

(4) Joyfully giving thanks to the Father for His great salvation

I'm going to treat this prayer from the perspective of what spiritual growth looks like.

2 Parts to the Meaning of Spiritual Growth for the Christian:

- (1) Spiritual growth means growing to know how God what us to live –
- (2) Spiritual growth means walking in a manner worthy of the Lord as we seek to please Him in all things

Let take a look at these individually to discover Paul's truth to the these believers at Colossae concerning their own spiritual growth, but more importantly to see what God's Word is saying to us about out own (spiritual growth)...

SPIRITUAL GROWTH MEANS GROWING TO KNOW HOW GOD WANTS US TO LIVE

"⁹ For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding." -Colossians 1:9

Did you notice it? Paul writes in Colossians 1:9, *"For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding"*

Paul's prayer that the Colossians would be filled with the knowledge of God's will does not mean that he wants them to know whether they should take a different job offer or marry a particular person. Rather, he's asking that they might know God's *moral* will as revealed in His Word. "Being filled" with this knowledge is a prayer that they would be controlled by this knowledge so that it would govern every thought, word, and deed. Since God's moral will is a reflection of His holy character, Paul's prayer is that these new believers would grow to know God Himself as He has revealed Himself in His Word.

Let's think about this... If you truly know God and how He works, His holy character – if you have a growing and dynamic relationship with Him so that you are growing ever closer to Him and getting to know Him then making decision and choices become so much easier and more directed not by you but my Him

The false teachers who had infiltrated the Colossian church may have been emphasizing how their teachings would bring you fullness of knowledge. To counter this claim, Paul emphasizes the theme of fullness by repeatedly using the words "all" or "every": "*all* spiritual wisdom and understanding" (Col. 1:9); "to please Him in *all* respects" (Col. 1:10); "bearing fruit in *every* good work" (Col. 1:10); "strengthened with *all* power" (Col. 1:11); and, "for the attaining of *all* steadfastness and patience" (Col. 1:11; see, also, Col. 2:3, 9-

10). He wants us to know that every spiritual need that we have is to be found fully in Christ. So why go elsewhere?

Paul modifies this true knowledge of God's will with two words (Col. 1:9), *"in all spiritual wisdom and understanding."*

How do we grow to know how God want us to live?

(1) The knowledge of how God wants us to live requires spiritual wisdom - "Spiritual" is emphatic by position and applies both to "wisdom" and "understanding."

Some Helps in Understanding Spiritual Wisdom:

1. **Spiritual wisdom and understanding come from God's Spirit**
2. **Spiritual wisdom stands in contrast to the worldly wisdom** – In this case especially that of the false teachers (Col. 2:23). "Wisdom" is an Old Testament concept emphasized often in the Book of Proverbs. The same Greek words for both "wisdom" and "understanding" often occur together in the Septuagint, as in Proverbs 9:10: The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.
3. **The main idea behind the Hebrew concept of wisdom is "skill"** - The men who were able to construct the tabernacle according to God's plan as revealed to Moses are called "wise," meaning skillful (Exod. 31:3, 6; 36:1-2). Just as a skilled carpenter can take a piece of rough wood and shape it according to a plan into a beautiful and useful piece of furniture that is a picture of spiritual wisdom that we should be developing in as lives as believe through the Holy Spirit of God
4. **The spiritually wise person is able to take the rough elements of life and shape them according to God's plan into something beautiful and useful to Him** -
5. **Spiritual wisdom requires learning about God and how He wants us to live** - So that our lives will not be ruined by sin, but rather will become a finely crafted product that will cause others to be attracted to the Maker, who displays His glory in us.

(2) The knowledge of how God wants us to live requires spiritual understanding - Wisdom and understanding are somewhat synonymous, but there may be a subtle nuance of difference.

Subtle Difference Between "Wisdom" and "Understanding":

1. **"Wisdom" refers to knowing how God's Word commands us to live**
2. **"Understanding" refers to insight, perception, or the ability to discern between things**

Understanding enables us to put the pieces of wisdom together in specific situations. In **2 Timothy 2:7**, after using the analogies of the soldier, the athlete, and the farmer, Paul tells Timothy, *"Consider what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything."* The Lord would enable Timothy to grasp mentally the truths of those

analogies and put them together so as to gain insight into how he should conduct his ministry.

Early in the 20th century Bishop H. C. G. Moule warned against what he called “an untheological devotion,” or a sentimental religion which thought that it could be healthy on a minimum of reasoned doctrine. But, he said, such people are easily swayed by the current fashions of thought or by attractive personalities.

More recently, D. A. Carson (*A Call to Spiritual Reformation* [Baker/IVP], p. 104) observed that “In the Western church, the knowledge of God declines while our fascination with techniques and fads increases.”

What is the problem with this?

What effects does this have on the church?

Can you cite examples today where we might see this?

I often get offers to attend pastors’ conferences or buy books that promise to tell me how to have a successful church. But these techniques and fads come more from the world than from God’s Word. Spiritual understanding is the ability that God gives to be able to bring together the principles of His Word so that we can stand against the ungodly trends of our times.

How do you become filled or controlled by the knowledge of God’s will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding? At least two things have helped me grow in spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that my life hasn’t run aground in the moral fog of this world.

2 Things That Have Helped Me:

1. **Prayerfully read and meditate on the Word of God** - By reading the Bible over and over and thinking about what it says and asking God for understanding, I can see the blips of danger on the screen and avoid smashing into them. God’s Word exposes the dangerous winds of doctrine that are blowing in our times. It also reveals the way that Satan has tempted people in the past and the consequences when they have yielded to his evil schemes. All of you men should burn into your minds the portrait of the foolish man in Proverbs 7, whose first mistake was to go near the home of the loose woman. Then he succumbed to her enticement, “as a bird hastens to the snare. So he does not know that it will cost him his life” (Prov. 7:23). God’s Word imparts spiritual wisdom and understanding.
2. **Read church histories and good Christian biographies** - God’s Word is like the radar, but reading church history is like the guy on the bow. You don’t depend on him alone, but sometimes he can help you interpret what you’re seeing on the radar screen or point out something that you missed. By reading what God’s people have faced down through the centuries and how they either succeeded or failed, you gain insight into our times. For example, in his book *The Puritans: Their Origins and Successors*

[Banner of Truth], Martyn Lloyd-Jones has a chapter on “Sandemanianism.” I had never heard that term until I read that chapter back in the late 1980’s, but I instantly realized that this error from a man named Robert Sandeman in the early 1700’s was exactly the same error that John MacArthur combats in his books, *The Gospel According to Jesus* [Zondervan] and *Faith Works* [Word]. It’s the error that saving faith involves only bare assent to the work of Christ, not repentance. Also, by reading (twice now) Iain Murray’s two-volume biography of Dr. Lloyd-Jones, I’ve learned how he insightfully applied God’s Word to the spiritual battles in his day. That has helped me navigate the foggy waters of our day. As we grow in the knowledge of how God wants us to live, the result is that we will walk worthily of the Lord, pleasing Him in every way.

Suggested Reading:

Biographies

Martin Luther, by Eric Metaxas

Bonhoeffer, by Eric Metaxas

Amazing Grace, by Eric Metaxas

A.W. Tozer: A Passion for God, by Lyle Dorsett

George Whitefield, by Arnold Dallimore

Spurgeon, by Arnold Dallimore

J.I. Packer: An Evangelical Life, by Leland Ryken

D.L. Moody: A Life, by Kevin Belmonte

Servant of the Word & Flock: Dr. John MacArthur, Iain Murry

David Livingstone, by Vance Christie

Jonathan Edwards: A Life, by Geoge Marsden

Oswald Chambers: Abandoned to God, by David McCasland

Becoming Elisabeth Elliot, by Ellen Vaughn

Histories

Tried by Fire, by William J. Bennett

Bullies and Saints, by John Dickson

History of Christianity, by Billy Wellman

They Were Christians, by Cristobal Krusen

Christian History, by Alister McGrath

Excavating Evidence for Jesus, by Titus Kennedy

Crusaders, by Dan Jones

The Church and the Middle Ages, by Steve Weidenkopf

The Templars, by Dan Jones

2 Books I am currently reading:

Biographical - St. Patrick of Ireland, by Philip Freeman

History - Defenders of the West, by Raymond Ibrahim

SPIRITUAL GROWTH MEANS WALKING IN A MANNER WORTHY OF THE LORD AS WE SEEK TO PLEASE HIM IN ALL THINGS

The knowledge of God's will leads to a walk that is worthy of the Lord. The result of all biblical knowledge should be godly conduct. And the primary motive for godly conduct is not that we can live a happier and better life (although that always is the result), but rather that we please and glorify the Lord.

Before we look at the four ways Paul says that we can please the Lord, note that this is a *walk*. That implies steady progress in a deliberate direction. You don't get there by a dramatic spiritual experience or a quick fix, but rather by steady, deliberate, day by day growth in understanding through God's Word. It's also a walk that is "*worthy of the Lord.*"

Dr. D.A. Carson (*A Call to Spiritual Reformation* pp. 105-106) explains that this had a more profound meaning in the first century, where most cultures were shame-based. In America we don't usually think this way, but in shame-based cultures, to dishonor your father is a really big deal. So here Paul is urging these new believers to live in a way that would bring honor to the Lord, who gave Himself on the cross to rescue them from Satan's domain of darkness (Col. 1:13-14). So in every situation, we should ask, "What sort of speech or conduct would honor or glorify the name of the Lord? What would please Him the most?" Paul spells out four ways that we can please the Lord...

4 Ways We Can Please the Lord:

- (1) **We please the Lord when we bear fruit in every good work** - Fruit is what God accomplishes through us as we depend on Him. As Jesus taught (John 15:5), "*I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.*" Good works are the outworking of the life of Christ flowing through us as we rely on Him. Although we could go into more detail, fruit generally consists of Christlike character, conduct, and converts (Rom. 15:26-28; 1 Cor. 16:15; Gal. 5:22-23; Heb. 12:11; 13:15). We're saved by grace through faith apart from works, but genuine saving faith inevitably produces good works (Eph. 2:8-10). While fruit takes time, if there is no sign of fruit, a person should question his faith.
- (2) **We please the Lord when we increase in the knowledge of God** - This phrase may mean that we are growing *to* know God better. Or, it could mean that we are growing *by* knowing God better. Either way, there is the idea that we must know God Himself. Since God is an infinite being, to know Him is an infinite process. As a parent, it always pleases me when my children want to spend time with me so that they can know me better. In the same way, we please God when we desire to spend time with Him in His Word so that we can know Him better. The knowledge of God (vs. 10) is inseparably connected with the knowledge of His will (vs. 9) and with obedience to that will (walking worthily,

pleasing Him, bearing fruit, v. 10). In John 14:21, Jesus said, *“He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him.”* If you want to get to know Jesus better, then obey Him. He only reveals Himself to those who obey Him. You can see this principle in human relationships. You don’t disclose yourself to those who are not worthy of your trust. You won’t share your heart with just anyone, but only with those who care enough about you to keep your trust. In the same way, when the Lord sees that we love Him and are trustworthy because we obey Him, He will reveal Himself to us. It pleases God when we bear fruit and grow to know Him better through His Word.

(3) We please the Lord when we are strengthened with His power to be steadfast and patient - “Strengthened” is a present participle, indicating our need for a continual infusion of God’s power. “All” power points to the fact that it is an unlimited supply. “According to His glorious might” is literally, “according to the might of His glory.” God’s glory is the outward manifestation of His splendor or inherent majesty. Often in the Old Testament, it was a blinding light, a bright cloud, or lightning with thunder. Whenever anyone encountered God’s glory, he fell to his face in awe and reverence, afraid that he would die. In the New Testament, we see God’s glory in Jesus Christ (John 1:14). Sometimes it was veiled, but at other times, such as on the Mount of Transfiguration, when He performed miracles, in the Garden when the soldiers fell backwards, or on the cross when the sky was darkened and the earth quaked, His glory was seen. God’s glory in Christ knocked the belligerent Paul to the ground, blinding him, and bringing him into submission to Jesus Christ. Paul here says that we please the Lord when we are strengthened with all power according to the might of His glory. I ask you, as I’ve asked myself, do you experience this mighty power of God in your life? Before you answer, keep reading! Otherwise, you may think, “If I were experiencing God’s mighty power, I’d see people miraculously healed through my prayers. I’d command demons and they would flee. I’d see the dead raised. I’d preach and 3,000 would get saved. I’d always see dramatic answers to my prayers. But that’s *not* what Paul says. He says (Col. 1:11), “Strengthened with all power, according to the might of His glory, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience.” Huh? You don’t need steadfastness and patience if God is miraculously delivering you in every situation. You only need steadfastness (endurance in trials) and patience (bearing with difficult people) when there are no miraculous deliverances! The word “joyously” can either go with “steadfastness and patience” or with “giving thanks.” Either way, Paul is saying that when we bear up in difficult circumstances or with difficult people with joy in the Lord because of His great salvation, we are experiencing God’s mighty power in our lives. We please the Lord when we experience His sufficiency in our weakness and His grace to sustain us in our trials (2 Cor. 12:7-10). Thus we please the Lord when we bear fruit, when we grow to know God better, and when we experience His power so that we are steadfast and patient in our trials.

- (4) We please the Lord when we joyously give thanks to Him for His great salvation -** Col. 1:11b-12, "... joyously giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light." As I said, "joyously" could go either with steadfastness and patience or with giving thanks. Either way, the point is that when we go through trials, we please God if we don't grumble, but rather are filled with joyous thanksgiving to Him. We live in a world of grumblers. If we are joyously thankful people, we'll stand out as lights in the darkness (Phil. 2:14-15). How do you develop this joyous, thankful attitude in the midst of difficult problems or difficult people? Paul's answer is to set your mind of the fact that the Father has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light (the Greek text has the definite article before "light"). The picture in Paul's mind is the division of the land of Canaan in the Old Testament. After Israel conquered Canaan, they divided up the land by lot. Each tribe received a portion of the land to live on and pass on to their descendants after them. Even so, Paul is saying that the Father has given us an inheritance that we share with all the saints in the light. We all have Christ in us and enjoy His full salvation. Individually, we've been given gifts to use for the common good. And, we should pass this spiritual heritage down to our children and grandchildren. They should see our joy in the Lord, even when we go through trials, and want to experience the same blessings that we enjoy.

CONCLUSION

There used to be a lot of ways I could tell that my kids were growing. I could measure them on the growth chart. I could see their pant legs creeping up over their socks. They needed bigger shoes. They started eating as much as I eat. Personally, they were growing when they started thinking about life's important issues and talking with me about more grown up things. In their case, it happened all too quickly! Now, they're all married, rearing children of their own.

How can you tell if you're growing spiritually? There are many different ways. But here Paul shows that you're growing if you're learning more and more through God's Word how He wants you to live. And you're growing if, as His child, you're seeking to live as He wants you to live in order to please Him.

Signs You Are Growing Spiritually in the Lord:

Spiritual growth is often quite and unseen, but there are clear biblical indicators that you're becoming more like Christ. Here are some of the most common signs...

- (1) You hunger for God's Word** – A deeper desire to read, study, and meditate on Scripture shows you're seeking God's truth. You may find yourself asking, "What does it mean?" and applying it to your life.
- (2) You respond with grace, not just reaction** – You pause before reacting, choosing patience and kindness over frustration or anger. This reflects the fruit of the Spirit at work

- (3) **You recognize sin more quickly** – Conviction comes faster, and you’re quicker to confess your sin and to repent. This sensitivity to sin shows a growing awareness to God’s holiness
- (4) **You’re drawn to prayer** – And not just in crisis... prayer becomes a natural part of your day, not just an emergency response. You talk to God about your thoughts, hopes, and struggles
- (5) **You seek fellowship with other believers** – You value community, attending church, joining Bible studies, or serving with others. This strengthens your walk with God
- (6) **You grow in reverence for God** – You increasingly ask, “What would God want me to do?” and align your decisions with His will. This “fear of the Lord” is the beginning of wisdom
- (7) **You find joy in God’s Word** – Scripture becomes a source of encouragement and truth, not just information. You look forward to reading it
- (8) **You care for others** – Love for neighbors and compassion grow as a result of your relationship with God. This fulfills 1 John 4:19
- (9) **You persevere through trials and fire** – Challenges no longer define you; you find strength in God’s presence and promises
- (10) **You experience peace and fulfillment** – A lasting peace settles your heart, and you find joy in serving others and living out your faith

Key takeaway: Spiritual growth isn’t always visible. It’s often seen in the heart’s desires, attitudes, and actions. If you’re noticing these signs—especially hunger for God, grace in response, and love for others—it’s a good sign you’re moving in the right direction. Keep nurturing your relationship with God through prayer, Scripture, and community, and trust that He is working even when you don’t see immediate results