

cont'd from front...

How do I do grow spiritually given the challenges of today's world?

Again, a few practical suggestions to help us actually do the spiritual practices mentioned above:

Begin each morning with praise and a commitment to seek Jesus that day.

Meet regularly with a group of Jesus' followers for worship, encouragement, confession, and friendship.

Spend time in the Bible, especially focusing on the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) to be shaped by the life, words, and example of Jesus.

Have others pray with us and for our spiritual growth.



A DIFFERENT WORLD

Ed Smithson

Many of us realize we live in a different world in which we grew up. The rules are different, if there are rules. Language is not the same and discipline seems to be a thing of the past. There is no dinner table, as such; we get our meals at the fast food places and it matters little if it is good for us. We no longer raise our food, and neither do we get it out of a can. We get it from those places where we can get it in a few minutes and consume it in less.

We do not talk like we used to. By that I mean we do not talk directly, we skirt a subject by using words that have not always been familiar, that are softer, skirting the real meaning for something less meaningful. Liberals do not want us to use harsh and plain language but they can use it with impunity.

This is especially true when it comes to words that some consider harsh. This has become noticeable in describing the breakdown of soldiers in war. In WWI it was said to be "shell shock," in WWII it became known as "battle fatigue," and in the Korean conflict and later wars it became known as "post traumatic distress syndrome or disorder."

The language of the Bible is specific about sin and its cause as well as its effect. For instance, "For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows." (1 Tim. 6:10KJV) The ESV puts it more descriptive, "For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs." Some would call it "greed" which it is, but others would call it ambition, or goal setting, etc.

Today after the morning service - Fellowship & Potluck and Men's Business Meeting - Please join us! Evening sermon after the Potluck!

Please remember our radio program at 1:30 on Friday - KKMC 880

February 4, 2018

church of Christ at Alisal

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Lunar Eclipse January 31, 2018
Photo by Martin Metzger

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. (John 1:1-5)

MEETING UPON THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK

Listen on AM Radio 880 KKMC in Salinas, California
2nd Friday of each month @ 1:30 pm

Bible Classes..... 9:00 A.M.
Assemblies..... 10:00 A.M. & 5:00 P.M.

<http://churchofchristalisal.com/>

WEDNESDAY

Bible Class, Singing, & Prayer..... 6:30 P.M.

Welcome

Good Morning Brothers and Sisters!



This Week's Sermon's

A.M & P.M.-
The Righteousness of God

.....
"How Can I Grow to Be More Like Jesus?"

by Phil Ware



Jesus is like a seed planted into the soil of our lives (Colossians 1:25-27). We must yearn for Jesus to become firmly rooted in our hearts (Colossians 2:6-7). We desire for our lives to be a hospitable place for the Lord's influence to grow (Mark 4:13-20). A growing plant needs proper soil to grow. Similarly, the growth of the "Jesus seed" in our hearts is dependent upon the unique soil we choose to provide. Because of the uniqueness of your life's journey, you may need to nurture some things in your heart's soil that others don't. Others may need to nurture some things you don't. Spiritual growth is not a color by numbers process. There isn't a one-size-fits-all recipe for success. Each of us is different. Our life stories are unique. As we join with others in this growth toward Jesus, he will provide people to help us in the things that we uniquely need to grow. Thankfully, however, there are some common principles that help us all grow spiritually to become more like Jesus.

The starting point in our spiritual growth is to recognize the source and power of all godly spiritual growth: the Holy Spirit. In fact, I would prefer for us to capitalize the word "Spiritual" to emphasize this reality — if it didn't mess up everyone's spell checker. True spirituality comes from being born of the Holy Spirit and having the Spirit overflow into our lives (John 3:3-7; John 7:37-39). This growth process means that the Spirit leads us in the dance of life (Romans 8:9-17; Galatians 5:18, 26), much like Jesus was led (Matthew 4:1; Luke 4:1). Like Jesus, we can be empowered by the Holy Spirit (Luke 4:14; Ephesians 3:16, 20-21).

True growth comes through the transformational work of the Holy Spirit (2 Corinthians 3:17-18). The Spirit empowers us to overcome the temptations that are rooted in our old way of life (Romans 8:13). The Spirit helps us take on the character qualities of Jesus as we grow and mature to become more like Jesus (Galatians 5:22-23). But for that to happen, we must be willing to let the Spirit take the lead in our lives (Galatians 5:26). But how do we allow the Spirit to lead?

- Desire to grow:
- This is part of what it means to "follow Jesus" — we want to become like



him by growing into a mature disciple who is like his or her teacher (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark; Luke 6:40).

- Focus on Jesus:
- We seek after Jesus so we can take on his character and compassion while we lay aside the sin and the past that drags us down (2 Corinthians 3:18; Hebrews 12:1-3; Philippians 3:7-14).
- Open ourselves to the Scriptures:
- The Holy Spirit inspired and gave us the Scriptures (what we call the Bible), to help us know the will, character, and compassion of God for our lives (2 Timothy 3:14-17; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8; 2 Peter 1:21).
- Pursue the character qualities God wants in us:
- While our efforts can't make us spiritual, we can commit to pursuing the character qualities of God. This pursuit opens us up to be led by the Spirit both to become more like Jesus and to be productive in our spiritual efforts (2 Peter 1:3-8; Galatians 5:22-26).
- Spend time with other believers:
- We engage in spiritual opportunities and relationships for worship to be filled with the Spirit (Ephesians 5:15-21). We share our lives with other believers who can encourage us, mentor us, and partner with us in our desire to be a true follower of Jesus (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; Hebrews 3; Hebrews 10:19-25).

Let's get practical!

Jesus didn't call us to live away from the world but to live his life in the world to be a blessing to the world (John 17:15-18). The Lord wants us to make a difference in the world.

So, it's fair to ask a very practical question:

(continued on back page...)

Announcements

1. Brother Paul will be giving the invitation this Wednesday evening.
2. Wednesday evening class, "Introduction to Romans". Be prepared - bring your notebook!

~ On the Prayer list

- Beverly Pereira** - for better health and less pain.
- Norma Decker** - relief from her pain and COPD.
- Kerry Johnson** - for getting over the flu.
- Rosemarie Johnson** - for no pain or illness.
- Michael White** - for his education and helping others as he serves his time.
- The church at Alisal** - for growth, sowing the Word, and results from our Maya theater Advertisement.

Have a blessed week!