

GROWING IN JESUS

2 Peter 3:18 1 Peter 2:2

Introduction: As certain things are essential for a healthy physical life, so it is with one's spiritual life. Leave out the essential ingredients in one's physical life and the results are disastrous and the same applies to one's spiritual life as well. Christians need to know that there are essentials necessary for growth in the Christian life.

One thing necessary before taking inventory of one's spiritual needs is the daily assurance of Salvation. How does one know for certain that he/she is saved?

- It is a one time experience (*2 Corinthians 5:17*)
- Doing what God says is necessary.
 - Repent of sins, place one's faith in Jesus, let Jesus be Lord in one's life.
- Because God's Word is true (*1 John 5:11-12*)
- Because of God's promise. (*John 5:24*)

Once assured then one's spiritual life begins to grow. What are some of the essentials for spiritual growth?

I. GOD'S WORD IS ESSENTIAL

1. Hear it! *Romans 10:17*
2. Read it! *1 Timothy 4:13*
3. Study it! *2 Timothy 2:15*
4. Memorize it! *Psalms 119:11*
5. Meditate upon it! *Joshua 1:8*
6. Practice it! *James 1:22*

II. PRAYER IS ESSENTIAL (Listen as well as talk to God)

1. Pray, praising and adoring.
2. Pray, with thanksgiving.
3. Pray, confessing.
4. Pray, interceding.
5. Pray, petitioning.
6. Pray, listening.

III. CHURCH FELLOWSHIP IS ESSENTIAL (Tender Loving Care is essential)

1. It is God's desire for His Family to be together. (*John 17:20-21*)
2. It encourages mutual love for each other.

IV. SHARING ONE'S FAITH IS ESSENTIAL

1. Children learn to talk and express themselves as they mature. God expects the same of His own.
2. *Acts 1:8* - What God wants His family to talk about is the Good News, and leaving the results up to Him.
3. The early Church took sharing their faith very seriously. As a result, YOU and I are Christians.
4. A fruit-bearing tree is a healthy tree. God expects every one of His family to bear fruit. This is not an option with God.
5. To be effective as a witness, the believer needs to:
 - live with daily assurance of his/her own salvation.
 - keep his/her life cleansed daily of sin.
 - let the Holy Spirit guide daily.
 - practice these four essentials for growth.
 - share the good news every opportunity.

CONCLUSION:

1. If one is to grow as a child of God, he/she is going to have to use the things just discussed.
2. Do YOU want to grow as a member of God's family?
3. ARE you a member of God's family?