



# ELEVATE

YOUR WALK WITH GOD

Sunday, April 17, 2016

PART 3: HERE WE GROW

Philippians 1:6 ...being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

Luke 6:43-45  
Luke 8:5-10

## STAGES OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH

### 1. Spiritually \_\_\_\_\_ (Unbeliever)

Luke 8:12 Those along the path are the ones who hear, and then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved.

- a. They are deceived and blind to the truth of God's love.
- b. They live a life contrary to the Bible.
- c. They may or may not believe there is a God.
- d. Some attend church but aren't ready for a personal relationship with Christ. Yet they would identify as being a Christian.
  - Active explorers – searching for a reason to fully believe.
  - Passive explorers – attend church but content with a shallow spiritual life.

Ephesians 2:1-3 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, 2 in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. 3 All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath.

*NEED:* To be born again and make Jesus Christ the Lord of their life.

### 2. Spiritual \_\_\_\_\_

Luke 8:13a Those on the rocky ground are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root.

- a. Ignorance: As they don't know much about Biblical truth.

- b. Confusion: Because they don't know how to replace the old habits and lifestyle with the new habits of being a disciple of Christ.
- c. Dependence: Because they cannot accomplish growth alone any more than a baby can feed and care for itself.
- d. Serving, tithing, and greater commitments cause them to "choke."
- e. They attend but are not ACTIVELY involved in church. Worship is more of a spectator activity.
- f. They tend to have a low level of love for others,
- g. They are in "receive mode" rather than "give mode."

*NEED:* To be planted in the local church and someone to feed and care for them in order to grow and thrive.

### 3. Spiritual \_\_\_\_\_

Luke 8:14 The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature.

- a. Selfishness: They are self-centered because they are the center of their world and interpret everything from the "me" perspective.
- b. Idealism: Because they are inexperienced they tend to be black-and-white in their thinking, as well as naïve. They might think that Christians should only listen to worship music or read nothing but the Bible. They tend to be legalistic in applying their beliefs on how others should live.
- c. Overconfidence or Under-confidence: They bounce from one perspective to another. Overconfidence manifests itself as pride. Under-confidence can become self-loathing and defeat.
- d. They have made a commitment to trust Him with their souls' salvation and for eternity . . . but they are just beginning to learn what it means and what it takes to develop a relationship with Him.
- e. They read their Bible on Sundays.
- f. They are now willing to donate their time to the church but not their finances.
- g. They enjoy singing during the worship experience.

*NEED:* To learn how to engage with Christ on a personal level and start feeding themselves from the Bible.

## 4. Spiritual \_\_\_\_\_

Luke 8:15 But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.

- a. They have a God-and-others-centered outlook.
- b. They begin to see that God has a purpose for their life as their priorities begin to change.
- c. They make the sacrifice necessary to serve for the good of others and to honor God.
- d. They go public with their faith and are more willing to be identified as a follower of Jesus Christ.
- e. Their increasing love for Christ compels them to obey His command to reach the lost.
- f. As they are more secure in Christ they are able to overlook the faults of others.
- g. They are action-oriented, zealous, and in need of a way to get involved in ministry.
- h. They believe in the church vision and begin to invest financially.
- i. They read their Bible occasionally.
- j. They now fully engage in the worship encounters with singing, clapping, and lifting their hands.

Romans 12:10-13 Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. 11 Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. 12 Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. 13 Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

*NEED:* To identify their unique gifts and talents and how those best fit into the vision of the church for the greatest impact.

## 5. Spiritual \_\_\_\_\_

Luke 8:15 But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.

- a. "My relationship with Jesus is the most important relationship in my life. It guides EVERYTHING I do."
- b. They are fully surrendered to Jesus and His agenda.

- c. His will is their will.
- d. They are intentional about building relationships so that discipleship can happen.
- e. They are able to reproduce! They intentionally build relationships that open doors to lead others to Christ.
- f. They are able to feed themselves spiritually. They are ready for meat but also know how to give milk to the spiritual infants.
- g. They value the church team. They are team players committed to seeing the church accomplish its mission.
- h. They recognize their gifts and how they fit into the big picture of the church. They strive to help the body of Christ be a powerful force and accomplish the great commission.
- i. They read their Bible daily for continual nourishment.
- j. They take ownership. They love to give 10% and beyond of their income because they see the church as, "That's MY church."
- k. Worship is a part of their daily lifestyle, not just a Sunday event.

