

# GROWTH PATH

*STEP THREE*







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# **INTRODUCTION:**

## *BELIEVING IN JESUS*

“Then Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.”

John 6:35 (NIV)

# BELIEVING IN GOD

“And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him.” Hebrews 11:6 (NLT)

1. It is impossible to have a relationship with God apart from \_\_\_\_\_.
2. We deepen our \_\_\_\_\_ with God by growing our \_\_\_\_\_.
3. We grow our \_\_\_\_\_ through:

- **Relating with God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit**

*“I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one - as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me.”* John 17:21 (NLT)

- **Relating with God through His Word**

*“So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”* Romans 10:17 (NKJV)

- **Relating with God in prayer**

*“Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.”* Jeremiah 33:3 (NKJV)

- **Honoring our covenant with God**

*“Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you...”* Matthew 28:19-20 (NLT)

## *THE GOAL OF THIS CLASS*

To believe in Jesus by growing and developing your \_\_\_\_\_ .

# **PART I:**

## *RELATING WITH GOD AS FATHER, SON, & HOLY SPIRIT*

“I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one - as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me.”

John 17:21 (NLT)

# I. RELATING WITH GOD AS FATHER, SON, & HOLY SPIRIT

“But we know that there is only one God, the Father, who created everything, and we live for him. And there is only one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom God made everything and through whom we have been given life.” 1 Corinthians 8:6 (NLT)

“When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard... He will bring me glory by telling you whatever he receives from me.” John 16:13-14 (NLT)

The Father is the unseen, omnipresent Source of all being, revealed in and by His Son Jesus Christ, experienced in and by the Holy Spirit.

## *HOW DO I RELATE WITH GOD AS THE FATHER?*

- 1. We must see God the Father as the \_\_\_\_\_ of life and not ourselves.**

“Whatever is good and perfect is a gift coming down to us from God our Father, who created all the lights in the heavens. He never changes or casts a shifting shadow.” James 1:17 (NLT)

It’s important that we understand that God, not ourselves, is the source of life for all we need and want to accomplish. When we begin to look to God as our source, we reconcile our connection back to the Source of life instead of trying to be self-made.

- 2. We must \_\_\_\_\_ God by placing Him first in every area of our life.**

“Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.” Matthew 6:22 (NLT)

Whatever we seek first in life will order everything else in our life. The current condition of our life has been ordered and established by what we have been placing first in our lives.

## *HOW DO I RELATE WITH GOD AS THE SON?*

- 1. We must see Jesus Christ, the Son of God as the \_\_\_\_\_ of God, which reveals the Father to mankind.**



“Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation,” Colossians 1:15 (NLT)

Jesus is fully God and fully man; He is God wrapped in flesh, sent into the world to reveal God to man and redeem us from our sinful nature, which was separating us from God.

**2. We come to God the Father in the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus Christ.**

“At that time you won’t need to ask me for anything. I tell you the truth, you will ask the Father directly, and he will grant your request because you use my name.” John 16:23 (NLT)

When we come to God in prayer, we pray in the name of Jesus, and because of our faith in Jesus, God the Father sees us as perfect as Jesus.

**3. We must accept Jesus Christ as the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ given by The Father to receive eternal life.**

“God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can’t take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.” Ephesians 2:8-9 (NLT)

It’s important that we realize that there is nothing we can do or ever will do that can earn our salvation and acceptance from God apart from our faith in the finished work of Jesus’ death, burial, and resurrection.

## *HOW DO I RELATE WITH GOD AS THE HOLY SPIRIT?*

**1. We must see the Holy Spirit as \_\_\_\_\_ in us, who is also our helper.**

“And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.” John 14:16-17 (NKJV)

The Holy Spirit is equally God with the Father and the Son, but He is also God living in us. Sent by God, He dwells inside each believer to guide us and empower us to live a God-centered life.

**2. We must depend on the Holy Spirit to lead us and shape our \_\_\_\_\_ to become more like Christ.**

“So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image.” 2 Corinthians 3:18

It is the holy Spirit that convinces us of sin in our life and leads us to change. He influences us to make wise choices and produces the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23) in our life so that we may reflect a more Christ-like character.

**3. When we receive the Holy Spirit, He gives every believer \_\_\_\_\_ that edify and build-up the Church.**

“There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all. There are different kinds of service, but we serve the same Lord. God works in different ways, but it is the same God who does the work in all of us.” 1 Corinthians 12:4-6

God desires to equip us with spiritual gifts that enable us to serve others and build up His Church.

## **PART II:**

### *RELATING WITH GOD THROUGH HIS WORD*

“So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

Romans 10:17 (NKJV)

## II. RELATING WITH GOD THROUGH HIS WORD

“People do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.”  
Matthew 4:4 (NLT)

God’s Word is the ultimate authority in life, by which we live. Spending time with God’s Word is key to sustaining a vibrant relationship with God and truly living a whole life.

### *WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO READ THE BIBLE REGULARLY?*

**1. Reading the Bible helps us become \_\_\_\_\_ with the voice of God.**

“Through Your precepts I get understanding; Therefore I hate every false way. Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.” Psalm 119:104-105 (NKJV)

God intends for us to rely on His voice to live. But in order to recognize God’s voice, we must first become familiar with His voice through what He has already said in scripture. Much like a child learns their parents language by hearing it regularly, in a sense, we must become familiar with God’s language by spending time with His Word regularly.

**2. The Word of God is what builds up our \_\_\_\_\_.**

“So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” Romans 10:17 (NKJV)

We all have a faith tank that can become low. We tend to doubt and become discouraged when our faith is low. Faith is what keeps us moving in the right direction. This is why it’s important to keep our faith tanks full by regularly filling up with the Word of God.

### *WHERE DO I START?*

**1. One of the best places to begin building a solid foundation is to read one of the four \_\_\_\_\_ and the book of \_\_\_\_\_.**

“Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock.” Matthew 7:24 (NLT)

Beginning with one of the four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John) will lay a clear foundation of the story of Jesus. The book of Romans will lay a strong foundation of the Christian faith and what it means to be a Christian.

- 2. Another great way to start reading the bible and develop a habit of relating with God through His Word is by using \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.**

“All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.” 2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NLT)

Devotionals and reading plans are simple guides that help us take in the bible a little at a time and typically are designed to support practical application for daily living.

## *HOW IS THE BIBLE MEANT TO BE READ?*

- 1. The Bible is meant to be read with a \_\_\_\_\_ perspective.**

“Anyone with ears to hear must listen to the Spirit and understand what he is saying to the churches.” Revelation 3:13 (NLT)

Though the Bible can be read as a historical document with a literal perspective, God’s Word is meant to be read with a spiritual perspective that leads to spiritual insight and divine guidance.

- 2. The Bible is meant to be read with an open \_\_\_\_\_.**

Remember what it says: “Today when you hear his voice, don’t harden your hearts as Israel did when they rebelled.” Hebrews 3:15

The life flowing power of God’s Word can only enter our hearts when we have a receptive and teachable heart. Just as it is difficult for a plant to spread deep roots and grow on rocky soil, it is difficult for God’s word to go deep into our heart when we have a hard heart.

- 3. The Bible is meant to be \_\_\_\_\_ on.**

“But they delight in the law of the Lord, meditating on it day and night. They are like trees planted along the riverbank, bearing fruit each season. Their leaves never wither, and they prosper in all they do.” Psalm 1:2-3 (NLT)

When we meditate on the Word of God, it renews our mind and deepens our spiritual connection with God. The more we meditate on God’s Word, the deeper the roots grow in our heart and the more in-tune we become with God’s voice in our heart.

## **PART III:**

### *RELATING WITH GOD IN PRAYER*

“Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.”

Jeremiah 33:3 (NKJV)

### III. RELATING WITH GOD IN PRAYER

Like any relationship, communication is what relationships are built on. Our relationship with God is no different. If we truly desire to be strengthened in our relationship with God, we must communicate to Him daily. Every person who has ever been effective in serving God has developed a habit of daily prayer.

“Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you.” Jeremiah 29:12 (NIV)

#### *WHY IS PRAYER SO IMPORTANT?*

1. **Prayer is how believers draw strength and maintain spiritually \_\_\_\_\_.**

“For the Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life.” Job 33:4 (NLT)

God is our life source and prayer is what keeps us connected to that source. Like plants trading oxygen with us for carbon monoxide, God breaths in our prayers and in return exhales His kingdom. It's a constant exchange; we breath in His Spirit to exhale our prayers and He breaths out answers to our prayers. Just like our body cannot live without air, our spirit cannot live without prayer.

2. **Prayer gives us \_\_\_\_\_ to navigate through life.**

“Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.” Proverbs 3:6

We all face difficult decisions in life that the Bible doesn't give clear answers to, e.g. which job should I take? What house should I buy? But when we seek God in prayer, He guides our hearts in the right direction.

#### *HOW SHOULD I PRAY?*

1. **Be \_\_\_\_\_ when you pray.**

“And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full.” Matthew 6:5 (NIV)

Jesus warned that when we pray to impress others, the only reward we will receive is the attention of others. We shouldn't worry about sounding good when we pray; it's more important to be honest when we pray.

**2. Give God your full \_\_\_\_\_ in prayer.**

"But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you." Matthew 6:6 (NIV)

Jesus encouraged us to make time to focus and give God our undivided attention in prayer. When we set aside quality time to talk with God, our prayer time is much more effective.

**3. Pray with your \_\_\_\_\_ not just your head.**

"And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words." Matthew 6:7 (NIV)

Religion can often cause us to view prayer as a religious duty to repeat prescribed prayers over and over. God wants to hear what's in our hearts because He wants our hearts.

## *IS PRAYER SUPPOSED TO BE A MONOLOG OR A DIALOG?*

**1. Prayer is talking to God and also listening for \_\_\_\_\_.**

"God speaks in different ways, and we don't always recognize his voice." Job 33:14 (CEV)

God speaks to us more than we realize. We just aren't used to listening for His voice. When we are born again, we are like a spiritual new born and like a new born, we must develop and learn to recognize language. In this case, we must learn to recognize spiritual language.

**2. God's voice sounds like \_\_\_\_\_.**

"For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made..." Romans 1:20 (NIV)

God speaks through all of creation. His communication is beyond words. Just as we express ourselves through music and art, God is not limited to words. Instead of using words to communicate, He often creates experiences for us to experience.

**3. God's voice sounds like a \_\_\_\_\_.**



“And after the earthquake there was a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire there was the sound of a gentle whisper.” 1 Kings 19:12 (NLT)

Because God’s Spirit resides in us, God communicates to us internally, much like how we talk to ourselves in thought form. As we quiet ourselves, we can hear God whisper within our heart. Some call this an impression from God.

**4. God’s voice sounds like our own \_\_\_\_\_.**

“When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken.” Acts 2:6 (NIV)

God is personal and doesn’t speak to everyone the same way. Like parents speaking to children who have different personalities and ways of understanding, He’ll speak to us in ways we understand. He’ll speak through mental pictures, words, feelings, and even parables. If you’re an electrician, He’ll probably speak to you through electrician analogies.

## **PART IV:**

### *HONORING OUR COVENANT WITH GOD*

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you...”

Matthew 28:19-20 (NLT)

## IV. HONORING OUR COVENANT WITH GOD

Baptism is an important act of obedience that publicly demonstrates our decision to trust Jesus for our salvation and honor our covenant with Him. Jesus was baptized when He was on the earth, and we do this to follow His example.

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Matthew 28:19-20 (NLT)

### *WHAT IS WATER BAPTISM?*

**1. Baptism is a \_\_\_\_\_ of our covenant with God.**

“For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives.” Romans 6:4 (NLT)

Just as the symbol of a wedding ring is a public declaration of a marriage covenant, water baptism is a public declaration of the covenant we’ve made with God. When Christians are baptized, they are submerged under water to identify with the death and burial of Jesus and raised out of the water to identify with His resurrection.

**2. Baptism is not your \_\_\_\_\_.**

“Then he said, Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom.” And Jesus replied, “I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise.” Luke 23:42-43 (NLT)

Jesus promised the thief on the cross next to Him that he would be saved, but he was never baptized. If we had to be baptized in order to be saved, then Jesus would have been lying when He promised the thief that he would be saved. Water baptism is not what saves us; it is an outward expression that symbolizes what has taken place on the inside of us.

# **NEXT STEPS:**

## **FIND YOUR NEXT STEP**

“The LORD directs the steps of the godly. He delights in every detail of their lives.”

Psalm 37:23 (NLT)

## WHAT'S NEXT?

“My life is worth nothing to me unless I use it for finishing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus—the work of telling others the Good News about the wonderful grace of God.” Acts 20:24 (NLT)

We all have a next step that leads us closer to the purpose God has for our lives. Take a moment to consider what your next step might be.

### *SOME NEXT STEPS*

- 1. If you have received Jesus Christ as your Lord and savior and have never been baptized, baptism is your next step.**

“But when they believed Philip as he proclaimed the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.” Acts 8:12 (NIV)

- 2. Get a Bible or download the YouVersion Bible app and start reading a devotional or reading plan.**

- 3. Continue to Step Four to complete the Growth Path.**

“They will take root in your house, Lord God, and they will do well. They will be like trees that stay healthy and fruitful, even when they are old.” Psalm 92:13-14





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