

Summary of Building Spiritual Growth

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Action Items

Practice daily time with God

Set a consistent time for prayer, Scripture reading, meditation, and listening for God's direction.

Build spiritual accountability

Encourage and support another believer who is struggling with prayer, discipline, or spiritual growth.

Plan November outreach

Coordinate a food outreach offering soup, sandwiches, water, or hot meals to people experiencing need.

Prepare November baptism

Identify people interested in baptism and organize the service for the church anniversary month.

Guard thoughts and influences

Identify harmful media or behaviors and establish practical boundaries that protect holiness and spiritual focus.

Building Spiritual Growth

Main Topic: Spiritual Maturity and Foundation

- The teaching focused on the body of Christ growing toward full maturity. Spiritual growth is a shared responsibility: mature believers should encourage, pray for, and support those who are still developing.
- Believers were encouraged to learn God's voice through prayer, stillness, Scripture, and relationship with Him. Knowing God helps distinguish His voice from deception and reject Satan's influence.

- The central foundation is Jesus Christ. Like the wise builder in Matthew 7, believers must hear Christ's words and act on them. A life built on Christ can withstand storms, while a life built on personal desires or unstable teaching will eventually collapse.
- First Corinthians 3, First Corinthians 6, and Ephesians 2 were used to emphasize that Christ is the cornerstone, believers are God's temple, and the Holy Spirit dwells within them. Therefore, believers should pursue holiness and recognize that their bodies and lives belong to God.

Four Habits That Fuel Growth

- **Thirst and hunger:** Spiritual desire must be continually renewed through God's Word, prayer, meditation, worship, and fellowship. Scripture was compared to spiritual food and water that nourish and sustain believers.
- **Structure:** Time with God should be intentionally arranged. A consistent daily rhythm of prayer, Bible reading, reflection, and service creates an environment where growth can occur.
- **Discipline:** Believers must identify harmful influences, establish boundaries, and practice obedience. This includes guarding the eyes and mind, avoiding sinful entertainment, and refusing to allow destructive thoughts or behaviors to control them.
- **Consistency:** Growth requires repetition over time. Missing a day should not lead to discouragement; believers should resume the practice and continue pressing forward until faithful habits become part of their lives.

Key Discussion Points and Questions

- Participants reflected on whether their lives are rooted in self or in the Holy Spirit, using the principle that "the root determines the fruit."
- Evidence of growth included greater peace, clarity, patience, healthier relationships, improved discipline, and visible fruit of the Spirit.
- The group discussed whether suffering always indicates sin. The conclusion was that believers should examine themselves, but difficulties may also serve God's purposes, as seen in Job.
- The message warned against pride, envy, anger, false teaching, sexual immorality, greed, drunkenness, abusive speech, and relying on human approval instead of God's Word.

Decisions and Action Plans

- Continue teaching the foundation of Christian maturity and the four spiritual habits in future sessions.
- Encourage members to develop a daily, protected time with God and to seek accountability within the church.
- Plan November outreach, potentially providing soup, sandwiches, water, or complete hot meals to people in need.
- Consider a November baptism service and a simple in-house anniversary celebration.
- The congregation was urged to live alertly, as though Christ could return at any time, rejecting foolishness and remaining about the Father's business.