



- “Building up” means that, with His help, we strive to become the people that God created us to be. Not only has God saved us from our sins, but He also gives us the power to change. He has given us the gifts of the Bible and the Holy Spirit so that we can put off our old sinful selves and be made more like Jesus Christ. Our purpose is to join together to learn from God’s Word and grow in His amazing grace.
- Read Ephesians 4:17-24. Pray.

1.) Spiritual growth is OBLIGATORY (v. 17).

- it’s *not* okay *not* to change (Leviticus 20:26).
- We have been reborn to be remade. We are saved to be sanctified.
- *What do our daily schedules suggest about the importance of sanctification to us?*

2.) Spiritual growth is OPPOSED to human nature (v. 17-20).

- Holiness is not inherent to fallen human condition.
- The more honestly we acknowledge the severity of our sin, the more strenuously we will strive for something better.
- Many of the most joyful and glorious truths about God can only be learned through the active pursuit of holiness (Hebrews 12:14)

3.) Spiritual growth has ONE source (v. 20-21).

- We are transformed by the truth of God revealed in the Word of God (John 17:17).
- Our possibilities for spiritual growth are directly proportional to our investment in and application of Scripture.

4.) Spiritual growth is OBSERVABLE (v. 22).

- Our lives with Christ should increasingly look different than our lives without Him (1 Corinthians 6:9-11).
- *Can you identify any clear relics of your past?*

5.) Spiritual growth is OPEROSE (LABORIOUS) (v. 22-24).

- Spiritual growth requires hard work.
- God's power works in us to move us to work hard for holiness (Philippians 2:12-13).
- God is most powerful in us when we are most passionate for growth.
- *How passionately and deliberately are you pursuing spiritual growth and change?*

6.) Spiritual growth is an ONGOING process (v. 22-32).

- The Pattern of Repentance: (1) Remorse (Put off the old self)... (2) Renewal (Be made new of mind)... (3) Replacement (Put on the new self).
- v. 22 – **REMORSE** – Putting off of the old self
 - While holiness results in doing right, it begins by admitting wrong.
- v. 23 – **RENEWAL** – Renewing the mind in Scripture (Romans 12:2)
 - Meaningful transformation happens when we stop conforming to the world and start conforming to the instruction of God's Word.
- v. 24 – **REPLACEMENT** – God is not only calling us to stop doing what he condemns, but to start doing what He commands.
 - v. 25-32 – Real-life Examples of Repentance
 - In each example, the holy action or attitude to be put on is the spiritual opposite of the unholy action or attitude to be put off.
 - Change that brings glory to God, then, means not only putting off sinful patterns but also putting on the **OPPOSITE** virtue.
 - Spiritual growth is best measured by habitual godliness.

7.) Spiritual growth is our OBJECTIVE

-- Mission Card 2015: All Things New