

In Step

How to Grow Spiritually

April 16, 2023

God invites us on a journey to follow him and to grow more and more into who he's called us to be. We don't go on that journey alone—God's given us some help.

MESSAGE NOTES AND HIGHLIGHTS

- God wants your life to be a reflection of what he's like.
 - Part of our growth journey is letting God lead and learning how to follow.
 - Spiritual growth requires a partnership with God.
 - “Without him, we can't. Without us, he won't.”
 - Good news—we can develop our willpower muscle.
 - Bad news—willpower isn't enough to live the life God has for us.
 - But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. | John 16, v.7
 - Advocate = “comforter,” “counselor,” “helper.”
 - And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. | John 14, vv.16-17
 - God the Father = Creator of your life. God the Son (Jesus) = Savior of your life. God the Spirit = Leader of your life.
 - When you allow the Holy Spirit who is with you and in you to be the leader of your life, that's when you start to experience life to the full like Jesus promised.
 - But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. | Galatians 5, vv.22-23
 - Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. | Galatians 5, v.25
 - This is about the changing of our lives from the inside out.
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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Every day, we're being shaped and molded by *something*—our beliefs, our habits, our relationships, our environments, our digital environment. On any given day, what do you think is shaping you the *most*?
2. Our spiritual growth is determined by letting God lead us and shape us—can you think of a decision or a season of your life that was shaped by doing things your own way? Can you think of a decision or season of your life that was shaped by following God's lead?
3. The apostle Paul encourages us to “keep in step with the Spirit.” What do you think that looks like?
4. How much of your day do you feel like you're in step with Spirit? What might be getting in the way of that?