

# How to Grow Student Edition

06/16/24

## Our Goal

for God to grow all of us together to become more like Jesus.

God grows us as we do certain things He has asked us to do. We call these things "means of grace."

## How God Grows Us

### Personal Means

(Things we do by ourselves with the help of our parents)

#### 1. Bible meditation and application

(How to apply the Bible: Hear, read, study, memorize, meditate and apply)

Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:12-17) See also: 1 Thessalonians 2:13; Psalm 119:9-11

#### 2. Prayer and Worship

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. (1 Thessalonians 5:16-19) See also: Romans 8:13-14; Galatians 5:16-17; Matthew 6:5-15; 1 Corinthians 10:31

### 3. Stewardship and simplicity

Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (Matthew 6:19-21) *See also: Luke 4:1-4; Luke 14:33; 1 Timothy 6:6-11; Matthew 23:23*

## Relational Means

(Things we do with other people)

### 4. Parents and Family

Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. (Deuteronomy 6:4-7) *See also: Deuteronomy 5:16; Ephesians 6:1-4; Proverbs 1-7*

### 5. Seeking wisdom from wise leaders

Let the wise hear and increase in learning, and the one who understands obtain guidance, to understand a proverb and a saying, the words of the wise and their riddles. The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction. (Proverbs 1:5-7)  
*See also: Proverbs 1:20-33; 11:14; 12:15; 15:22; 19:20; 20:18; 24:6*

### 6. Friendships

And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation." So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. (Acts 2:40-42)  
*See also: Proverbs 1:8-19; 2:20-22; 4:18-19*

### 7. Partnerships

Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, (2 Timothy 1:8-9) *See also: 2 Timothy 2:1-2; Mark 6:7*

### 8. *Small Groups (Life Groups/Sunday School)*

And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. (Hebrews 10:24-25) *See also: Acts 2:46; Ephesians 4:11-16*

### 9. *Helping God's family*

Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: (1 Peter 4:8-10) *See also: Acts 2:44-45; 1 John 3:16-18*

### 10. *Helping God's family in other places in the world*

Let brotherly love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body. (Hebrews 13:1-3)  
*See also Matthew 25:31-46*

### 11. *Outreach (helping other people trust Jesus)*

*How we do this: love, serve and share*

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. **Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.** (John 3:16-18) *See also: Acts 2; 8:1-4; 1 Corinthians 1:18; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Matthew 10:27-39*

### 12. *Supporting Missions (helping people in other places trust Jesus)*

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age. (Matthew 28:18-20) *See also: Acts 1:8; Romans 10:9-15; Romans 5:20-21*

## Providential Means

(Things God does or allows to happen to us to grow us)

God uses everything. The effectiveness of these means is based on our response to each circumstance which should always include trust, worship, thankfulness, and obedience.

### 13. Fun Stuff

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. (Romans 8:28-29)  
See also: *Romans 2:4; 1 Timothy 6:17-19*

### 14. Painful Stuff

"For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives."... For they [your parents] disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. (Hebrews 12:6, 10-11) See also: *Proverbs 3:11-12; Romans 5:1-5; Romans 8:16-39*

### 15. Temptation

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials [temptations] of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. (James 1:2-4)

### 16. Persecution (stuff people do to try to get us to not share about Jesus)

"Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. Beware of men, for they will deliver you over to courts and flog you in their synagogues, and you will be dragged before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them and the Gentiles. (Matthew 10:16-18) See also: *Philippians 3:10; John 15:18-20; 1 Peter 1:5-7; 2 Timothy 3:10-13*

If you are doing these things, God will grow you.  
Your parents and leaders at your church are glad to help. Please ask us.