

**SPIRITUAL GROWTH**  
**Fact and Fiction**  
**Part 1**

*"We are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves, and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him, who is the head, even Christ." Ephesians 4:14-15*

*"Shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock."*  
1 Peter 5:2-3

*"We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, that we may present every man complete in Christ." Colossians 1:28*

*"Finally then, brethren, we request and exhort you in the Lord Jesus, that, as you received from us instruction as to how you ought to walk and please God (just as you actually do walk), that you may excel still more." 1 Thessalonians 4:1*

**SPIRITUAL GROWTH**

**FICTION**

*Growth is automatic  
Can be instant  
By attending church  
Can attain it by yourself  
Measured by beliefs  
How we act at church*

**FACT**

*Is a choice  
A gradual process  
By developing habits  
Can't grow without others  
Beliefs & behavior  
How we act at home & world*

*"This is the pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father, to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world." James 1:27*

*"Even so, every good tree bears good fruit; but the bad tree bears bad fruit. By their fruit you will recognize them. So then, you will know them by their fruits." Matthew 7:17, 20*

## Principles of Spiritual Growth

1. Spiritual growth is \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Ministry Model - ACTS**

**A** = \_\_\_\_\_

*“Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.” Matthew 5:16*

**C** = \_\_\_\_\_

*“Cast all your anxiety upon Him, because He cares for you.” 1 Peter 5:7*

**T** = \_\_\_\_\_

*“Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” 2 Peter 3:18*

*“Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.” Romans 10:17*

**S** = \_\_\_\_\_

*“As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.” 1 Peter 3:10*

2. Spiritual growth is \_\_\_\_\_.

*“I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able to receive it.”  
1 Corinthians 3:2*

### **Steps toward Growth**

Get to know Him

Learn to love Him

Grow in Him

Learn to serve Him

Start to share Him