

February 14, 2020

## Growing In Greater Intimacy With Jesus

In March, I will be inviting our church family to join me in a commitment to **“grow in greater Intimacy with Jesus”**. I will be planning my sermon lessons around essential doctrinal principles in scripture that help us



grow. What we believe leads to what we practice. These practices form habits that cause us to grow and be transformed as Christ is formed in us. Dr. Scott Duvall's workbook on spiritual formations entitled **“Experiencing God's Story of life and hope”** should provide a helpful supplement to our study. We will work to encourage our classes, small groups and individuals to join in going through this workbook. Dr. Duval's approach is both practical and realistic. He guides readers as they look at **what they believe, how they behave, and who they are becoming**. These are three essential considerations in spiritual growth that lead to our maturity and transformation. Our goal is to develop strategic disciplines that will help us grow into spiritual maturity. Hebrews 6:1, says we must **“leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity”**. God wants us to grow and be spiritually mature. That was true of the people of God in Moses day but they failed to believe in God and go forward as God directed, so they missed out on the promised land. We can be guilty of making the same mistake today. It is impossible to stand still in christian living. We are either going forward and learning to hear God and claim His promises, OR we are going backward and wandering aimlessly, living unproductively! **The truth is what we feed grows**. As we develop essential beliefs and practices, the natural by-product is growing in maturity. Please pray for this emphasis and commit to participate at the level the Lord leads.

Spiritual maturity is simply growing to be more like Christ. (See Romans 8:28-29) God's plan is for us all to grow to become fruit-producing disciples and disciple-makers. (John15:16/2Tim 2:2)

As we prepare for this challenge, we must understand three critical things about growing spiritually. First, spiritual maturity is not automatic nor does it happen instantly.(Heb. 5:12-13); Second, spiritual maturity is a process. There are no short cuts! (2 Peter 3:18); and Spritual maturity takes discipline and discipline is work! (1 Tim 4:7-8). Going on to spirtual maturity is serious business and means a life long commitment and dedication.

I invite you to join us this Sunday as we consider **“Love: the greatest thing of all”**. I wish you a very happy Valentine's day and God's enduring abounding love in your life.

In His Love,  
Pastor Garry

*“We are a **faith fellowship** of believers on our journey **together** with our Lord... meeting needs, mending hearts.”*