



Lesson 1 — What Spiritual Growth Is (and Isn't)

2 Peter 3:18 · 2 Corinthians 3:18 · Mark 4:26–29 · Ephesians 4:15–16

Name _____

Date _____

Spiritual growth is God changing who we are from the inside out, slow on purpose, and far easier to see in a year than in a week.

FOLLOW ALONG

1. The ledger can count what we _____. It cannot see what we are _____.
2. Peter's command in 2 Peter 3:18 uses a word for _____ things, which grow at a pace they do not set for themselves.
3. Peter puts *grow* in the _____ — it is a command, and two chapters earlier he asks for every effort.
4. In 2 Corinthians 3:18, *are being transformed* is _____, which means God is the one doing the work.
5. From _____ to _____ — whatever God is doing, he is doing it in installments.
6. In Jesus' parable the farmer scatters the seed and then _____, and the soil produces the crop by itself.
7. The five words Jesus adds: although he _____.
8. Paul planted and Apollos watered, but _____ gave the growth.
9. Hebrews says solid food is for those whose senses have been _____ to distinguish between good and evil.

THREE THINGS THAT GET MISTAKEN FOR GROWTH

ONE

A week that feels flat is not the same as a week that went backward.

TWO

A man can learn a great deal and end the year the same man.

THREE

A sharpened conscience finds more to be sorry about, not less.

WHO DOES WHAT

Fill in the missing half from each passage.

OUR PART

GOD'S PART

2 Corinthians 3:18

looking

Mark 4:26–29

the seed sprouts and grows

1 Corinthians 3:6

planting, watering

Ephesians 4:16

from him the whole body grows

NOBODY GROWS ALONE

speaking the truth in love, let us grow in every way into him who is the head — Christ. From him the whole body ... promotes the growth of the body for building up itself in love by the proper working of each individual part. Ephesians 4:15–16

Name one person who would notice a change in you before you noticed it yourself. What would you have to let them see?

BETTER QUESTIONS

The ledger is the wrong instrument. Put it down and answer these instead.

1 How long does it take you to come back now, compared to a year ago?

2 What do you do with a sin you used to defend?

3 Who are you at home on a day that has gone badly?

4 What would the people who see you at Christmas say about you if nobody asked them to be kind?

THREE THINGS BEFORE SUNDAY

- ☐ Write 2 Peter 3:18 on a card and put it where you will see it first thing in the morning.
- ☐ Keep one line a day for seven days. One thing you did, said, or let go of that you would not have a year ago. Some days the line will be blank. Leave it blank and keep the card up.
- ☐ Read Titus 2:11–14 and Romans 6:1–4 before we meet.

NEXT WEEK Lesson 2 — *The Role of Grace in Change* · Titus 2:11–14; Romans 6:1–4. Lesson 1 called grace the ground we grow on. Lesson 2 asks what grace does once we are standing on it.