

Growing in My Relationship with God

New Hope Church



Thanks for requesting information about how to grow in your relationship with God. We are so excited that you are interested in going deeper with Him and we would love to come alongside you on your journey! All of us are at different stages of maturity in that relationship and yet all of us need to continually grow. Scripture makes the comparison of our spiritual growth to what it is like to grow physically. (*See for example: 1 Corinthians 3:1-3; 1 Peter 2:1-3; Hebrews 5:11-14.*) When we receive Jesus Christ (*John 1:12-13*) we are born again by God's Spirit — we begin as spiritual infants. As we grow in our relationship with Christ we are to mature into committed, faithful followers who can be spiritual parents and grandparents to others. (*See for example: 1 Corinthians 4:14-16; Galatians 4:19-20; 1 Thessalonians 2:6-12; 1 John 2:12-14.*)

Just as children grow through certain healthy practices, so we mature in Christ as we discipline ourselves for the purpose of becoming more like God, our heavenly Father. (*See 1 Timothy 4:7-8*). If we summarized the basic teachings of the Bible about how to grow, these would be some of the most important things on the list:

- 1. Feed on God's Truth** - God's Word in the Scripture is like food to our hearts. Through it we are nourished on healthy thoughts and God's perspective on the life we are living. It teaches us, corrects us, reproves us and trains us in right kind of living. (2 Timothy 3:16-17) It is God's most objective means of speaking to us and instructing us in His ways. (Psalm 1; Isaiah 50:4; John 8:31-32)
- 2. Pray** - Jesus modeled the need for prayer to the Father while He was here in this life. If Jesus needed to pray in order to stay in close relationship with the Father and to do His will, how much more do we? Every growing follower of Christ has found that prayer (communication with God) is just as necessary and beneficial. (See Matthew 6:5-15; John 15:7-8; 1 John 5:14-15.)
- 3. Be Connected with Other Believers** - the Bible teaches that when we were born-again we became a part of God's family. (For example, Romans 12:4-5 and Ephesians 2:19-22.) We were created not only to be in vital relationship with God but also with one another. (See the "one-another" commands in the New Testament—for example John 13:34-35.) A growing Christian is a Christian who is connected with and involved in the lives of fellow believers. (Hebrews 10:24-25) Healthy relationships in the family of God grow as we seek to connect in one to one, small group and large group experiences with each other. (See for example, Acts 2:42-47.)
- 4. Serve Others** - the Bible also teaches that when you become a Christian, the Spirit of God gives you gifts to use in service to others. (See Romans 12 and 1 Corinthians 12-14.) We are to be good stewards of these gifts and use them to build

others up in their relationship with God, just as we are when they practice their gifts. (See 1 Peter 4:10 and the previous passages.) Finding a way to get involved in serving others in the life of the Church is another way to grow.

- 5. Share the Truth** - all of us who have experienced God's forgiveness and a restored relationship with Him are called "witnesses". (Matthew 5:13-16; Luke 24:45-49; Acts 1:8) We grow as we share what we know about Jesus with others. (Philemon 1:6) It is our privilege and responsibility as God's people to tell others about Him and help them become his children as well. (Matthew 28:18-20; 1 Peter 2:9-12) That witness is composed of both our words and our actions.

There are other steps of obedience to God that we can take that will help us to grow in our relationship with Him. If you would like a more specific recommendation on how to grow or would just like to talk to someone about it, please feel invited to contact our church staff at our office [(785) 537-2389 or newhope@newhopeks.org]. Help can also be found by getting connected with other believers by getting involved with a small group LIFE Group. If you are interested in getting plugged in with a LIFE Group, please contact the church office. May God bless you on your journey with Him and may you find what you seek.