

Second Olivet Missionary Baptist Church



Are You
Growing?



8—PART WEDNESDAY SERIES FEATURING PASTOR CYRUS L. THORNTON

6:30PM (818 SOUTH WEST STREET, SYRACUSE, NY 13202)

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Ten Signs of Spiritual Growth



Sign 5:
An Increasing Sphere
of
Love



The maturing Christian finds that he is more willing to express love to others—to reach out, to touch, to speak, to share, to listen, to be present in times of need.



The person who is growing in Christ has an increasing desire to be used by God to shower His love on others.



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Sign 6:
A Quickness to
Forgive Others



The spiritually maturing person finds it easier and easier to forgive those who have wronged him, hurt him, or rejected him. He is more sensitive to the need to forgive those who offend, and he is quicker to make apologies, seek to make amends, and to bring quarrels or disputes to a peaceful resolution.



This does not mean that the spiritually mature person compromises with evil.

Nor does it mean that the maturing Christian has a greater desire to be yoked with nonbelievers. Far from it! It does mean that the growing Christian has a desire to live in peace with others, not holding grudges or harboring resentment and bitterness.



Sign 7:
An Increasing Desire
to
Obey God



The person who is growing spiritually will have an ever-increasing desire to keep God's commandments and to obey the voice of the Holy Spirit speaking in his spirit—regardless of circumstances or what others around him are doing.



The person who is becoming spiritually mature is less and less influenced by the will of others. He has a stronger and stronger desire to know all of God's commandments and to live according to them.



The mature Christian is a person who wants to do God's will. His answer is always yes to God's leading. The more a Christian matures, and the more intimate a relationship the person has with the Father, the quicker the person is to hear God's voice and to respond enthusiastically and with full effort to whatever God commands.



Sign 8:
Ever—Increasing

Faith



The person who is growing spiritually is a person who manifests greater and greater faith—an increased capacity to believe God and to trust God to work in increasingly difficult circumstances or situations.



Faith is to be exercised. Our faith is capable of growing and becoming stronger the more we exercise or use our faith. The more we trust God to meet our needs and to do those things that only God can do in our lives, the more we see God at work in our lives.



Our faith expands the more we trust God and rely upon God to act in His sovereign way, according to His sovereign timing, and always for His sovereign purposes.



Sign 9:
An Increasing
Concern for
Others



The person who is growing spiritually will have an ever-increasing concern for the welfare of others, and especially for the spiritual condition of others. He or she will have a strong desire to see sinners receive Jesus Christ as their Savior. He will have a desire to see the practical and emotional needs of others met.



The maturing Christian will have an increasingly soft heart—a tender heart that is sensitive to others and quick to respond in whatever ways are appropriate and possible in meeting needs in others.



Sign 10:
Feelings of Love

Toward God



The person who is maturing in Christ comes to recognize that God is our loving, merciful, tender, patient heavenly Father—and as such, He can be trusted completely to be our provider, counselor, source of all good blessings, and friend.



Not all of these signs of spiritual growth may be evident in any one person at any given time. In general, however, the great majority of these signs are manifested by those who are maturing in Christ Jesus.



Take a look again at the ten means of evaluation for spiritual growth that we have discussed in these last two lessons and check off those that you believe are true for you:



1. A growing hunger to know God
2. A desire to know God's truth
3. A greater sensitivity to sin and evil
4. A decreasing desire for the world's system
5. An increasing sphere of love
6. A quickness to forgive others
7. An increasing desire to obey God
8. Ever-increasing faith
9. An increasing concern for others
10. Feelings of love toward God

