

# 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)

[WWW.SOMBC.ORG](http://WWW.SOMBC.ORG)

God's Word challenges us to grow. Spiritual growth is not an option or a "nice idea"—it is a commandment.

2 Peter 3:17–18



SEVEN  
REQUIREMENTS FOR  
GROWTH TOWARD  
INTIMACY WITH GOD



We do not automatically grow. We must choose to grow spiritually. We must pursue these seven requirements for spiritual growth with our full intention and will. Each of these seven essentials for spiritual growth should be approached with the understanding that we can do these things.



# Requirement 1: Renewal of the

Mind



Any believer who desires to grow spiritually and move toward a more intimate relationship with God must choose to pursue the renewing of his mind.



We must begin to retrain our spirits and our minds to respond to life as God desires for us to respond. This means a great change in various habits, procedures, thought processes, and belief systems. We must "renew" our thinking, our speaking, and our behaving to line up with our salvation.



Requirement 2:  
Readiness to

Face Failures





Most of us try to sidestep or justify our failures and faults. We like to take the easy way out, saying, "That's just the way I am" or, "That's the way my parents raised me." The fact is, most of us are not "just the way God wants us to be."



In order to get from where we are to where God desires for us to be, we have to make changes in our lives. And that means facing our faults and failures, taking responsibility for them, and going to God with them.



In His desire to see you made strong, God will continue to pursue those areas in your life that are weak, dysfunction, or uneasiness (feelings of not being at ease, rest, or peace).



In His desire to draw you closer to Himself, God will continue to move against any obstacle or barrier that stands in the way of Him experiencing genuine spiritual intimacy with you.



Even though others may have wounded you, rejected you, or sinned against you—your response to their actions has made you who you are today. If you truly are to grow spiritually, you must own up to your actions and reactions.



Requirement 3:

Repentance of Sin



To repent is to turn around, to move in the opposite direction, to make a complete "about-face."



The person who desires to grow spiritually must be willing to change and to give up old sinful habits, desires, lusts, thoughts, and associations.





One of the things we must never lose sight of as we grow in our relationship with the Lord is that we love and worship a HOLY God. God manifests no darkness, no shadow of turning, no tolerance for evil or deceit.



For us to approach God, we must be in a state of forgiveness, which is only made possible as we trust Jesus Christ to be our Savior, Redeemer, Mediator, and Lord. Christ is our forgiveness and our righteousness.



The renewal of the mind, a confession of faults and sins, and repentance of sinful attitudes and behaviors are part of our living in a state of righteousness. They are essential to our drawing close to a Holy God.

