

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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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



In the last lesson, we covered three prerequisites for spiritual growth. In this lesson we will deal with four additional essentials for a person to grow in Christ. As we discussed in the previous lesson, these are things that God desires for us and which He enables us to do by the power of the Holy Spirit working in us. These are also things that require our will and effort. We must choose to grow spiritually and to draw close to God.



Requirement 4:
Receive

Godly Counsel



Every Christian, no matter the state of his spiritual maturity, should have a wise Christian friend with whom he can share his struggles, faults, sins, failures, and spiritual desires and hopes. Ideally, this friend will be a more spiritually mature believer who can serve as a mentor in the faith.



None of us are called to be "lone rangers" in the faith. We are called to relate to one another as a body of believers that functions as a family. We are to be interdependent on one another in areas including the sharing of wisdom and knowledge.



Requirement 5: Service to Others



We do not learn in isolation.
Neither do we grow
spiritually in isolation. We
learn and grow in
relationship to others.



All of us are to be servants to others in the faith. We are to minister to the needs of others and to love others. To be of service to others and to love others, we first must be in relationship with others.



Requirement 6:
Active Reflection About
God's Work



It is as we learn about and study the ways in which God has worked in the lives of others—not only the people we read about in the Bible but in the course of history—that we gain an understanding about how God will work in our lives. We can also learn a great deal, of course, by hearing and reflecting upon the ways in which God is working in the lives of other Christians today.



Requirement 7: Responding to Trials



The person who desires to grow spiritually must recognize that every trial and test in life is an opportunity for spiritual learning.



Trials and tests are our opportunity to learn more about God's methods, purposes, and perfect plan. They are our opportunities to become strengthened in faith and to prove ourselves worthy of an increased sphere of influence or witness.

