

Personal Revival 2

Am I growing?

This is one of the most important questions to ask yourself if you desire any form of goal accomplishment. Biblical Christianity is more about mastery than perfection.

My goal is that by the end of this message you will be passionate about personal growth and transformation and that from there you will develop a growth plan for yourself.

2 Cor 3:17-18

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. 18And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

One of the outcomes of experiencing His glory in times of personal revival is that we are transformed. One of the gaps in the body of Christ today is a clear theology of growth and personal transformation.

Does God have an expectation about your current rate of growth and personal transformation?

What is your current growth trajectory?

Hebrew 5:11-13

We have much to say about this, but it is hard to explain, because you are dull of hearing. 12Although by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to reteach you the basic principles of God's word. You need milk, not solid food! 13Everyone who lives on milk is still an infant, inexperienced in the message of righteousness....

So I am curious to know, what speeds up personal development and change and what slows it down?

What's changed in your life recently? In what areas of your life have you become a better version of yourself? I need to be asking myself:

- Am I growing as a husband?
- Am I growing as a Dad?
- Am I growing as a pastor?
- Am I growing as a communicator, coach, lecturer?
- Am I growing as a son, brother or friend?
- Am I growing as a Christian?

The good news is that Jesus came for this.

When Jesus calls us, 3 things happen.

- a) He calls us and gives us purpose
- b) He calls us to teach us
- c) He calls us to make us into something

We see this from these three translations:

Matthew 4:19

NIV: **"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people."**

New Living Translation: **Jesus called out to them, "Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!"**

English Standard Version: **And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."**

If we have truly come to Jesus and are following Him, then the result is some form of growth and transformation. We discover our purpose, we learn from Him and we become something we were not.

Do you like who you are becoming?

Are you becoming a better version of yourself?

The Lord spoke to me and said, "My people have forgotten that they can learn from me. I have something to say on all aspects of life."

Eg me embarking on high level post grad studies. God spoke to me and said, "I can do it with you." We should not have a fixed mentality that says I can't learn or grow. He is with you in it. The Holy Spirit can be your teacher.

John 14:26

But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

John 16:13

However, when the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all truth. For He will not speak on His own, but He will speak what He hears, and He will declare to you what is to come.

So I am asking, do you see coming to Christ as a source of growth and learning?"

Growth and transformation = learning

Disciple = Mathetes = to learn

Learning is the acquisition of knowledge with a resultant change in cognitive processes, attitude, values and behaviour. Paul Nyamuda

So learning is not measured by the amount of information acquired and processed but by the degree of transformation.

He is the Creator of the Universe so ask the question, "What can I learn from Jesus?"

Matthew 11:29

Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

New Living Translation

Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

How have you responded to Jesus' value proposition? What your excuse for not coming to Jesus in order to grow?

Luke 9:57- 62

As they were going along the road, someone said to Him, "I will follow You wherever You go." 58And Jesus said to him, "The foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head." 59And He said to another, "Follow Me." But he said, "Lord, permit me first to go and bury my father." 60But He said to him, "Allow the dead to bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim everywhere the kingdom of God." 61Another also said, "I will follow You, Lord; but first permit me to say good-bye to those at home." 62But Jesus said to him, "No one, after putting his hand to the plough and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

It's like Jesus had the first-hand experience first and then made it into a parable.

Luke 14:16-24

But He said to him, "A man was giving a big dinner, and he invited many; 17and at the dinner hour he sent his slave to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for everything is ready now.' 18"But they all alike began to make excuses. The first one said to him, 'I have bought a piece of land and I need to go out and look at it; please consider me excused.' 19"Another one said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to try them out; please consider me excused.' 20"Another one said, 'I have married a wife, and for that reason I cannot come.' 21"And the slave came back and reported this to his master. Then the head of the household became angry and said to his slave, 'Go out at once into the streets and lanes of the city and bring in here the poor and crippled and blind and lame.' 22"And the slave said, 'Master, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.' 23"And the master said to the slave, 'Go out into the highways and along the hedges, and compel them to come in, so that my house may be filled. 24'For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste of my dinner.'"

Learning and Growth in the New Testament

Throughout the New Testament we see that there was a culture of learning and personal growth. The disciples who followed Jesus were sitting under His teaching. Acts 2 they were devoted to the Apostles' doctrine. In Titus 2 the older women were instructed to teach and urge the younger women in lifestyle issues.

Developing a Growth Plan

You must own your own personal development.

1. Establish the areas in which you would like to grow.

Womanhood	Christian Foundations	Spiritual Gifts
Prayer	Manhood	Evangelism
Warfare	Overcoming Fear	Hearing God's Voice
Parenting ○ Discipline ○ Devotions ○ Connecting emotionally	Victory over an Addiction	Managing Money
Overcoming Perfectionism	Health & Nutrition	Marriage
Healing the sick	Self-esteem and wholeness	Public speaking
Listening skills	Forgiveness	Knowledge of the word
Leadership	Worship	Loving again
Reforming your industry	Children's Ministry	Musical Instrument

Specifically identifying what you need to learn is important because it will help you to notice the opportunities for learning.

2. Identify and overcome the barriers to your learning and growth.

Successful people identify their barriers and create steps to overcome them.

What are some common barriers to learning and growth?

- 1) Thinking that learning will happen without any effort on your part. ("osmosis")
- 2) Not planning your learning and growth. Intentionality.
- 3) Learning the wrong subject. Irrelevance.
- 4) Looking to the wrong sources. Bad teaching.
- 5) Never unlearning wrong patterns.
- 6) Building on the wrong foundation.
- 7) Making unhealthy comparisons. "I am good because I am better than my family."
- 8) Complacency.
- 9) Not differentiating between superficial knowledge and mastery.
- 10) Underestimating the consequences of remaining in the status quo. (Comfortable with inadequate knowledge).
- 11) Not differentiating between knowledge and practice.
- 12) Letting someone else manage your learning and growth. (Passive learners who let others set the pace for their learning. Even the disciples drew information out of Jesus by proactively asking Him questions. This fast-tracked their learning).
- 13) Assuming that your environment will stay the same. (We need to keep learning because our world is changing, our spouses change etc). It's like someone only knowing MS-DOS from the 1980s.

14) Failure to keep appointments with yourself. This is lack of self-respect and boundaries.

3. Ask yourself the following incisive questions.

- 1) Why have I not grown in this area in the past?
- 2) Of what must I repent?
- 3) To what extent is growth in this area aligned with my life purpose?
- 4) How will learning this help me in my calling and assignment?
- 5) What are the specific things I need to learn? Often it's a subset of something.
- 6) Why do I want to grow in this area? This is a question of motives and rationale.
- 7) What are the consequences of not growing in this area?
- 8) What are the barriers to learning this?
- 9) Who can teach me?
- 10) What are the other sources of learning?
- 11) What are the methods of learning? (e-learning, personal mentorship etc)
- 12) What has been offered to me in the past? (Perhaps you missed previous opportunities).
- 13) What do I need to unlearn?
- 14) What will the learning cost?
- 15) What is the timeframe and milestones for the learning?
- 16) How will the learning process fit into my current schedule?
- 17) What will I have to say no to in order to embrace the "yes" of my growth?
- 18) What is the picture I have of myself when I have grown in this area? (Visualize).
- 19) What opportunities will open up for me after I have gone through this learning process? (Success is when opportunity and preparation collide).
- 20) When do I commit to start?