

(Colossians 3:16) "Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to God." Human knowledge, apart from God, is flawed. Not only is God's knowledge infinite, but it is absolute: "Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! / How unsearchable His judgments, / and His paths beyond tracing out!" (Romans 11:33). When God came to earth in the Person of Jesus Christ, He became the embodiment of knowledge: ". . . Christ, in Whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge" (Colossians 2:2-3).

"His Word Is Powerful"

The benefits of reading, studying, and applying God's Word are endless. But there are some we think about – and dare I say, seek – more than others. We know the Bible teaches us more about God, His will, and His ways. We have experienced God's comfort, peace, and encouragement through His Word. And we have gained direction and insight for our daily lives. But those things only scratch the surface of the spiritual depth of God's Word. The deeper we go, the more God's blessings will cover us. Here are a few more benefits in which to delight: **Preparation For The Future** – God uses His Word to foster spiritual endurance and fill His children with hope and encouragement. Even if the days ahead are filled with trouble, pain, and persecution we can be victorious every step of the way because God has prepared us through Scripture. **"For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope"** (Romans 15:4). **Strength To Resist Temptation** – Jesus Himself used God's Word to stave off Satan's attacks. Scripture will protect us from sin by arming us with the truth and strengthening our longing to please and obey God. With God's Word in our hearts – not just in our minds – we can stand firm. **"The law of his God is in his heart; his feet will not slip"** (Psalm 37:31). **Spiritual Growth** – God wants to grow us to be like Jesus. Ingesting Scripture fuels our spiritual growth. God actively uses His Word in our lives to shape our character, change our desires, and mold our motivations to the image of Christ. This spiritual growth fosters a more intimate fellowship with Christ through a deeper knowledge of Him. **"Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good** (1 Peter 2:2-3). **Spiritual Vitality** – Those who live a life rooted in Scripture will thrive. God will bless us when we delight in and are devoted to His Word. Our relationship with Him will be strong and produce eternal results. **"He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers"** (Psalm 1:3).



Ephesians 4:14-15 **"We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into Him Who is the head, into Christ..."**

Tossed By Waves = **"Tossed to and fro"** is a nautical concept of being tossed by waves. Characteristic of immaturity is that it is unstable. False doctrine or human viewpoint can influence Christians without stability of soul because they lack understanding of biblical truth. Countervailing beliefs that assault true Christianity leave immature believers susceptible to their error because they do not secure themselves to truth. They are like a rudderless ship that has no stability of truth. This is at the heart of their problem. Metaphorically, it means to be agitated mentally like the waves in a stormy sea. To be disturbed. To be thrown in confusion. It describes one of unstable opinion who fluctuates or frequently changes the way he or she thinks or believes depending on the latest fad teaching. Picture a small sail boat being blown in one direction and then another by the wind that keeps changing direction. Notice that Paul does some mixing of metaphors here. He is trying to bring out vividly the danger of a believer continuing as a babe. If children were in command of a ship, they would be tossed up and down, driven here and there without direction over the vast expanse of sea. They would become discouraged and seasick. They would lose their way. This is a frightful picture of the possible fate of a child of God. **Carried About** = Literally means to carry about from one place to another, to carry here and there or to transport hither and thither. It is used of spinning tops. Such is the confusing effect of false doctrine. It pictures one whirled around as by a violent swinging that makes them dizzy. Picture a small dingy caught in a tempestuous storm and unable to hold a steady course to safety in the harbor.

"We Are Not To Remain As Children"

We are to come to Christ as children (Matthew 18:3-4), but we are not to remain as children. **"Brothers and sisters, do not be children in your thinking; rather, be infants in evil, but in thinking be adults."** (1 Corinthians 14:20) Children **<Nepios>** a simple-minded person, an immature Christian. The use of the word children is not referring to age but rather, to the understanding and knowledge of our faith. Simply put, to grow in faith means to grow spiritually. It is to mature in both knowledge of God and in godly living; ultimately, it is to become more like Christ.

Spiritual growth begins the moment a person comes to faith in Christ and should continue until a person enters Christ's presence after this life. In contemporary society, Christian spirituality is generally defined as a set of beliefs, values, and way of life that reflect the teachings of the Bible, the Holy book of Christianity. Much research has been devoted to this topic, ranging from practical to academic. But what does the Bible teach on this issue?

(1) Authentic Faith And Action



First, Christian spirituality is biblically defined as the practice of the beliefs of the Christian faith. It includes both knowledge and action. James 1:25 notes, for example, "**But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.**" (Mark 4:24) "**Pay attention**

to what you hear. With the measure you use, it will be measured to you, and even more will be added to you." From the earliest writings of the New Testament, the principle of integrated and authentic faith and action has been taught as essential to Christian spirituality. As Jesus taught, "**In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father Who is in heaven**" (Matthew 5:16).

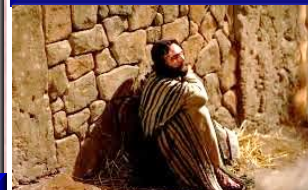
(2) Relies On The Power Of The Holy Spirit



Second, Christian spirituality relies on the power of the Holy Spirit to live according to God's will. The Holy Spirit serves to lead us into all truth (John 16:13), gives joy (Ephesians 5:18), and convicts when we sin.

Ephesians 4:30. For example, 1 John 1:5-8 teaches, "**This is the message we have heard from Him and proclaim to you, that God is Light, and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with Him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the Light, as He is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.**" True spirituality depends on the supernatural power God gives through the Holy Spirit rather than dependence on human strength. (1 Corinthians 2:5) "**That your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God It is Christ's power in the believer that gives us the ability to grow spiritually** (2 Peter 1:3) "**His divine power has given us everything needed for life and godliness through the knowledge of Him Who called us by His own glory and goodness.**" As we rely on His power and follow His teachings, we can develop greater maturity.

"Believe That Your Faith Can Increase"



"Denied Even Knowing Him"



"O You Of Little Faith"



"Peter Preached Boldly"

Every Christian has been given "**A Measure Of Faith**" (Romans 12:3). While each of us has been given a certain capacity to believe, it can increase. Isn't that great news? Exhibit A for growing faith is the Apostle Peter. Remember what Peter was like in the Gospels? He tried hard but failed, said the wrong thing at the wrong time, and kept messing up at critical moments. Peter was the one who swore loyalty to Jesus then denied even knowing Him (Mark 14:26–31, 66–72). Peter was the one who followed Jesus after His arrest but only from a safe distance (Mark 14:54). When Peter tried walking on the water, he sank, and Jesus called him, "**O you of little faith**" (Matthew 14:31).

Yes, Peter had little faith and a lot of growing to do, but he made one good decision: He followed Jesus' instructions, went to that upper room, and waited for the Holy Spirit to come and fill him. When the Spirit of God filled Peter in response to his faith, he was transformed. He preached boldly, and three

thousand people were saved. Peter became such a powerful, faith-filled man that Acts 5:15 reports that people "Even carried out the sick into the streets and laid them on cots and mats, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them." Peter failed time and time again because he tried living for Christ in his own strength and could not do it. **Many Christians fail today and give up too easily because they try living for Christ in their own strength and soon surrender to defeat. Growing in faith requires us to grow into a relationship with Jesus and learn to trust Him in all things. We must learn how to walk in Spirit so we will walk in power. Growing in faith with God is a life long process but we must never stop growing! We never give up when life gets too hard!**

"Knowledge Is Power"

"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness" (2 Timothy 3:16). The Bible is clear that the knowledge of God is the most valuable knowledge a human being can possess. But it is also clear that simply being aware of God's existence is not sufficient; the knowledge of God must encompass the deep appreciation for and relationship with Him.