
Now That I Have Decided To Follow Jesus . . .



I Can Have a Great Commitment to Growth



“Using the Bible To Teach the Bible”

Lesson 1

Bible Studies for New Christians

OPENING QUESTIONS

Many Christians make the mistake of thinking, “Now that I have been baptized, the hard part is over.” Unfortunately, this attitude leads to a lack of spiritual growth.

Hebrews 5:11–14

Some of these Christians were not growing. T F
They had had sufficient time to grow. T F

What had kept them from growing?

2 Peter 1:1–8

Has God given you everything you need for life and godliness? Y N
If you are to participate in the “divine nature,” you need to put forth effort. T F

What virtues are you to add to your faith?

Should these qualities be increasing in you? Y N

Is it God’s will for you to stop growing? Y N

**THIS LESSON WILL PRESENT
THREE CHALLENGES:**

- **TRUST GOD TO DO HIS PART**
- **PLAN (DECIDE) TO GROW**
- **ELIMINATE OBSTACLES TO GROWTH**

CHALLENGE #1: TRUST GOD TO DO HIS PART

Ephesians 1:15–19

God will give you a spirit of wisdom. T F
God has incomparably great power. T F
That power is for those who believe. T F

Do you believe?

Ephesians 3:14–21

God strengthens you with power through His Spirit in your inner being. T F
His power is at work in you. T F

1 Corinthians 3:6–9

Leaders may plant or water, but God makes things grow. T F
You are God’s fellow worker. T F
You are God’s field. T F
You are God’s building. T F

How do these descriptions make you feel?

1 Corinthians 15:9, 10

Did Paul consider himself the least of the apostles? (*Explain.*) Y N
Did God’s grace change him? Y N
Is God’s grace changing you? Y N
Grace, properly understood, encourages hard work. T F

CHALLENGE #2: PLAN (DECIDE) TO GROW

Philippians 3:7–15

What was Paul’s attitude toward growth?

What was Paul willing to give up to know Christ?

Did Paul think he had obtained perfection? Y N

CHALLENGE #3: ELIMINATE THE OBSTACLES

John 12:24

In order to produce many seeds, you (your focus on “self”) must die. T F
If you are not growing spiritually, is it possible that you are living for “self”? Y N

What would be some characteristics of one who is living for “self”?

Philippians 3:12–14

Should Christians (like you) keep their eyes on the prize? Y N
Is heaven the prize? Y N
If you stop growing spiritually, is it possible that you have forgotten about heaven? Y N

Can holding on to the past be detrimental to your growth?
If so, how? Y N

Hebrews 12:1, 2

If you are going to overcome sin, you must fix your eyes on Jesus. T F
You should throw off everything that hinders your spiritual growth. T F

1 Corinthians 15:33

Evil companions can lead you to sin. T F

What are some ways a friend could lead you to sin?

In order to live in a Christlike manner, might you have to give up some friendships (at least until you are stronger)? Y N

James 5:16

Unconfessed sin causes spiritual problems. T F
Lack of growth or spiritual struggles could be a sign of unconfessed sin. T F

Hebrews 10:24, 25

Through worshiping each week, you will be encouraged toward love and good deeds. T F

Lack of growth will result from falling into the habit of missing worship services. T F

What are some things that might keep you from assembling with other Christians?

SUMMARY & APPLICATION

Which of these three challenges presents the most difficulty for you?

- _____ *Trust God to do His part.*
- _____ *Plan (decide) to grow.*
- _____ *Eliminate the obstacles.*

What have you learned in this lesson?

How do you intend to use it?

If you do your part, will God do His?

Are you willing to do your part?

Remember:

While you cannot be saved by your own efforts, neither should you expect to be saved without your best efforts. Strive to grow in moral excellence, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness, and love (2 Peter 1:5).

4 ESSENTIALS FOR THOSE WHO PLAN TO GROW

1. Concentrate on specifics (1 Corinthians 9:24–26).

The Christian life must not be run aimlessly. T F

Asking, “How can I be more like Jesus?” is better than simply saying, “I want to be more like Jesus.” Why?

What is one area of your life that you need to change to be more like Jesus?

**2. Push yourself to grow (2 Peter 1:5; Philip-
pians 3:12, 13).**

Peter taught that Christians should make every effort to grow. T F

The apostle Paul talked about “reaching” and “pressing.” What do these words suggest to you?

3. Realize that you can grow (2 Peter 1:3–11).

What promise is made in verse 3?

What promise is made in verse 8?

What do these promises mean to you?

4. Remember, practice makes perfect—or at least mature (Hebrews 5:14).

If you want to be mature, you must use what you already know. T F

Is there any real value in knowing but not doing? Y N



Growth does not happen accidentally.