



# Growing Like Jesus

Whoever claims to live in him must walk just as Jesus did. 1 John 2:6

WRITTEN BY MARK EDWARDS

**A 10-DAY STUDY FOR NEW BELIEVERS**

LEARNING TO GROW LIKE JESUS DID!

Two X Two



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## Acknowledgments

*“. . . give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.”*

1 Thessalonians 5:18

I would like to acknowledge the power and work of the Holy Spirit in both the creation and development of this study about Jesus. Without His teaching, guidance and encouragement, this study would not have come into being. I would like to say a big thank you to my mentor, Dann, who encouraged me to write this for new believers in Jesus.

*Mark Edwards*

All verses are taken from the New International Version of the Holy Bible, unless otherwise noted.

### Growing Like Jesus

Written by Mark Edwards (Sonlife Latinoamérica)

Edited by Danielle Duvick (SpreadTruthMedia.com)

Layout by Krista Kuniyoshi (SpreadTruthMedia.com)

Cover Design by Josh Jeffrey (SpreadTruthMedia.com)

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## Welcome

I want to be one of the first to welcome you into the family of God. You are important to God, so significant that He sent His only Son, Jesus, to die on the cross to take away your sin and mine. We really needed a Savior! I wish I could give you a hug or throw you a party. This is truly a great day! In fact, the Bible says I am not the only one happy for you:

*“In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”* Luke 15:10

If a person believes that Jesus is the Savior of the world and that He died for them, was buried and rose again, all according to the Scripture, they are saved. It is by believing this Good News that you are saved and transported into a new family, a new Kingdom and a new life.

*“By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.”* 1 Corinthians 15:2–4

And now, since you have taken this wonderful step and have believed in Christ Jesus as your Savior, there is more to learn about being part of the family of God. I hope that this study will help you as you begin to grow and walk with Him.

Welcome to the Kingdom . . .

*“For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son [Jesus] he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.”*  
Colossians 1:13–14

Welcome to the light . . .

*“For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light.”*  
Ephesians 5:8

Welcome to the family . . .

*“Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God.”* John 1:12–13

## Getting Started

Now that you have put your faith in Jesus, you are ready to begin the great adventure of growing like Him. It is an adventure to discover your new identity in Christ as a child of God. As His son or daughter, you are accepted, secure and significant. The Bible says you are now a new creation, that you are born again.

*“In reply Jesus declared, ‘I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.’”* John 3:3

The Bible says you are born again when you accept Jesus as your Savior. Your new birth is a spiritual one, which means that your body’s age doesn’t matter because it is your spirit that is being born anew when you come to Christ. You are a newborn babe, the Bible says, and so you have to think of yourself in those terms. From this point, you will need certain things to begin to grow in your relationship with God. One of the things you will need to learn about is spiritual food. Without eating properly, your faith could wither and eventually die. Your spiritual food is God’s Word. You will need to get into the Word several times a day as a new believer, just like when you needed to be fed frequently as a baby.

I want to help you walk through this process of growing like Jesus. We will be using Him as our model of how to grow and deepen in our relationship with our Father God. There is no better model than Jesus. In fact, one of the reasons He came to Earth was to teach us how to walk in a relationship with God. Get excited—growing like Jesus is the greatest thing you will ever do!

The plan is simple:

**Decide on a place and time for your exploration of the Word.** Find a quiet spot. It should be away from any distractions. All you need is your Bible, this study and a pen. Get comfortable and prepare to grow just like Jesus did:

*“Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.”* Mark 1:35

**Be still and listen to what the Father is trying to tell you.** Then, most importantly, obey! Each day, pray, “Father God, I want to grow just like Jesus. I humbly ask You, by the power of Your Spirit, to teach me from your Word and give me the strength to put into action what You tell me to do. Amen!”

**Record what you are learning each day.** It does not have to be long. Simply put into words the things God is showing you.

**Memorize God’s truth.** Commit to memory the verses at the end of each chapter. This is important!

*“I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.”* Psalm 119:11



# Day 1

## The Promised One

Welcome once again to this study of getting to know God. Take a moment as you begin this first day to read the **Getting Started** page if you have not already done so. This introduction will help you understand how to prepare yourself physically, mentally and spiritually each day to hear from God.

When you believed in Jesus, God's Son, and accepted Him into your life, God gave you the gift of eternal life.

*"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son [Jesus], that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16*

But why has He given you this free gift of "eternal life," or life that lasts forever? Why do you need to live forever and what does one do with all that time?

Well, grab your Bible and let's find out. In the front of it, you should find a list of where all the separate books are located. Look for the book of John. It should be under the section called the New Testament. Find the page number and turn to it. Got it?

Okay, each book in the Bible has chapters and verses. These were not in the original writings, but were added later to help us find our way more easily and quickly around each book. You will learn to appreciate this labor of love done by some Christ-follower, long ago.

**Now, turn to the book of John to Chapter 17 and Verse 3. Read the verse slowly, then write it down word for word below.**

**Why does this verse tell us that God has given us eternal life?**

Eternal life is a gift from God so that you might be able to know Him and Jesus Christ, whom He has sent. And believe me, it will take all of eternity and then some to get to know our incredible Father. So, eternal life was given to us so that we might know Him! God already knows you; He created you. This is a chance to get to know even better the God who made you and the universe.

You will be with God forever, living and talking with Him for all eternity. You are His child and now part of His family. No one can ever take that away from you. In fact, He has given you an incredible gift—His Holy Spirit. The Spirit is His guarantee of eternal life.

*“Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.” 2 Corinthians 1:21–22*

The Holy Spirit has several names throughout the Bible, like “Counselor,” “Promised One,” “Spirit of God,” “Spirit of Christ” or simply “Spirit.” He is a gift from God, not only to seal you, but also to guide you in your new relationship with the Father. You will have Him forever and He will help you get to know God.

**Take your Bible again and turn to John, Chapter 14 and Verses 16 and 17.**

**Read John 14:16–17. Read it carefully. Write down the promise.**

**Now read John 14:26. Write down what this verse says the Holy Spirit’s job will be.**

That is how much God loves you. He has anointed you, put His seal of ownership on you and put His Holy Spirit in your heart. He is there, even if you say, “I do not see Him!” He is there, even if you say, “I do not hear Him!” He is there, even if you say, “I do not feel Him!” He is there because God has placed Him there, not because you see Him, hear Him or feel Him. In time, you will begin to see Him more clearly, hear His voice more distinctly and feel His presence. He will manifest His presence in you as you yield to His leading in your life and obey His voice. He is your guide and counselor on this journey and will lead you each step of the way.

### **Challenge**

Take a moment and reflect on what you have learned today about eternal life and the Holy Spirit and His role in your life. Also, thank God for the gift of the Holy Spirit.

**Think about this verse: John 14:26**

# Day 2

## Growing Like Jesus

*“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son [Jesus], that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16*

*“Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.” John 17:3*

Eternal life is a gift from God, which you received the very moment you trusted Jesus as your Savior. With this eternal life, you will be able to get to know God and Jesus Christ, whom He sent to earth for you. But how does one get to know God? I mean, He is huge, He made everything, He knows everything, He sees everything and He is all-powerful. So how do you get to know a God like that?

*“But the Counselor, 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 14:26*

You receive two incredible gifts: the gift of eternal life where you will get to know the Father and the gift of His Holy Spirit to teach us about who God is, what He has done for us, who we are in Jesus and to remind us of everything that Jesus told us about God. Start your time today with a prayer of thanksgiving. Just say, “God, thank you so much for the gift of eternal life and for the gift of your Holy Spirit. I want to grow like Jesus; show me what that means today. Amen!”

When Jesus was on Earth as a human being, He too had to get to know God as His Father. That is why we find Him constantly slipping away to spend time with His Father in prayer.

**Read Luke 2:40. Write down what this verse says about Jesus.**

**Now find verse 52. What does this verse say about Jesus?**



In these verses, we discover that when God came to earth in His human form, He came as a baby, grew as a child and became a man. He grew physically strong in stature and He grew intellectually in wisdom and knowledge. He grew up in every way as a normal human being like us. He had to eat, sleep, bathe and, yes, even go to the bathroom. God didn't just kind of become a man. He humbled Himself and became one of us in every way. Wow!

*"For this reason he [Jesus] had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people." Hebrews 2:17*

God loved us so much that He became one of us, to show us how to live life as God intended, in a loving relationship with God our Father, and then died to allow us that incredible opportunity to have eternal life and begin the adventure of knowing Him like Jesus did.

Yesterday, we started talking about the Holy Spirit, God's gift to you and me as a guarantee of the eternal life He has promised and as our Counselor or guide in knowing Him. The Holy Spirit did the exact same thing for Jesus!

**Read John 15:26. Write down what this verse says another job of the Holy Spirit will be.**

Jesus promised the gift of the Counselor—the Holy Spirit who would teach us more about who God is, what He has done for us and who we are in Jesus. He would also remind us of everything Jesus told us about God and, as we learn from this verse, would testify or give witness to who Jesus is. What a gift! He is our guide on this journey and will lead us each step of the way just as He did for Jesus.

*"And the child [Jesus] grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was upon him." Luke 2:40*

These little phrases—"He was filled" and "the grace of God was upon Him"—are packed with power. They show us the Holy Spirit's presence and work in the life of Jesus as He walked on Earth. As you will see, Jesus relied on the Holy Spirit to guide Him each step of the way.

### Challenge

Reflect on what you have learned today about Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Find a friend with whom to talk to about what you are learning. Ask them what they know about Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

**Think about this verse: John 15:26**

# Day 3

## Growing in Prayer

*“But the Counselor, 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 14:26

*“When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me [Jesus].”* John 15:26

Remember these verses from the last two days? One of the ways you grow is by memorizing God’s Word. These are two good verses to start with.

Take a minute as you begin your time with God and pray: “God, thank you for your Holy Spirit, who you have given to me out of your great love for me. Through Him, I want to yield to Your leading and guiding in my life so I can grow to know You better. Please help me today! Amen.”

The Holy Spirit is a great gift of love from God the Father to us. He helps us grow in our relationship with God just like He did with Jesus. One of the things the Holy Spirit wants to teach you is how to talk to God the Father. His job is to teach you how to pray. Prayer is simply communicating with God. It is one of His most important jobs because communication is key in getting to know God and establishing a great relationship.

**Grab your Bible again and let’s look at a few verses that talk about this work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.**

**Read Romans 8:13–16. Write down what these verses tell you about the Holy Spirit.**

The word “Abba” is the Greek word for “Father.” This was Jesus’ favorite way to address God. In Mark, we get a great glimpse into Jesus’ prayer life as He calls out to His Abba Father.

*“ ‘Abba, Father,’ he [Jesus] said, ‘everything is possible for you.’ ”* Mark 14:36

Jesus calls God the Father “Abba,” or “Father,” and He wants you to as well, because you are His child too. You are an adopted child of God, bought with the incredible price of Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross.



Another of the Holy Spirit's jobs is to confirm in your spirit that you are truly God's child. He does this by teaching you to call God the Father "Abba." God wants you to call Him "Father," because He wants you to realize the personal father/child relationship that you share. The Spirit will help you to do this. If you are like me, the first time someone shared these verses with me, I thought to myself, "I can't do that. That's weird. I can't call the God who made the stars, the world and the universe 'Father.' It would be irreverent, presumptuous, forward and would probably bring down lightning bolts from heaven in my direction."

I remember the fear I felt when I even thought about calling God "Father." I felt unworthy, undeserving and fearful. Those verses in Romans tell us that is why God has given us His Holy Spirit, to free us from feeling like slaves to God and to make us feel like His children. He gives us the power to address our God and creator as "Father."

This is another great verse on this job of the Holy Spirit's:

*"Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, 'Abba, Father.' "* Galatians 4:6

It was not until I realized it was impossible for me by myself to call God "Father" that I was able to do so. When I came to the realization that it was the Holy Spirit in me who would teach me to call Him by that name, I was free to say, "Father, I love you." I realized that when I call God "Father," it is evidence that the Holy Spirit is in me, giving me the freedom to address Him personally—He, who is the creator of the heavens and earth. Wow!

## Challenge

I guess you know what I am going to challenge you to do today. I know it will be hard at first and that it will feel uncomfortable, but this will change in time. Take a moment and ask the Holy Spirit to confirm that you are God's child and to assist you in calling God "Father." He will help you as you pray!

*"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests."* Ephesians 6:18

Now I want to challenge you to tell your Father whatever is on your heart. Talk to Him as you would to an earthly father. Your Heavenly Father wants to listen to you and He cares for you more deeply than anyone here on earth. Go ahead!

**Think about this verse: Galatians 4:6**

# Day 4

## Growing in Obedience

*“Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, ‘Abba, Father.’ ” Galatians 4:6*

Begin your time with God today, relying on the Holy Spirit, and calling Him “Father.” Go ahead—give it a try. The more you do it, the more comfortable it will become. He loves to hear His children call Him by name. Pray: “Father, I love you and thank you for your Holy Spirit who lives in me. I want to grow to know You better today. Help me! Amen.”

One of the roles of the Holy Spirit is to free us from the fear of approaching God Almighty and to enable us to call Him Father. His job is to help us communicate with God in heaven. That is how we talk to God. But how does God talk to us?

In Day 5, we will be exploring how God speaks to us, but there is another issue we must deal with first. God speaks to people who obey Him. If you have no intention of obeying God, what sense would there be in telling you His plan? God wouldn’t be able to trust you with much if you don’t obey him in the little things as well. So, your Father in heaven wants you to obey Him in order to allow you to receive even more direction, guidance and responsibility from Him.

**Read 1 Samuel 15:22. What stands out to you as you read this verse?**

Oftentimes, we think God is mostly interested in our sacrifice, but He is clearly more interested in our obedience. Obedience is a huge thing to God and is something we all must learn. It was something even Jesus had to learn.

**Read Hebrews 5:7–8. Write down what these verses tell you about Jesus.**



As a human being, when Jesus was on Earth, He also needed to learn to obey just like any other human. The big difference is that Jesus always obeyed. He relied on the Holy Spirit and His power to overcome every temptation to disobey.

*“For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin.”*

Hebrews 4:15

Jesus was tempted in every way just like us and yet He never sinned. He was tempted to disobey as He grew but always chose to obey. He remained God’s perfect sacrifice for us because He was spotless. There are two ways to learn to obey. Maybe you are like me and learned to obey by first of all disobeying. My mom would say, “Mark, don’t touch that stove. It’s hot and you will burn your finger.” When Mom wasn’t looking, I willfully disobeyed, placed my finger on the hot stove and figured out that it was better to obey my mom.

*“And being found in appearance as a man, he [Jesus] humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross!”* Philippians 2:8

Jesus had a different way of obeying. Jesus’ power to remain obedient came because He was filled with the Holy Spirit. He modeled for us how life should be, constantly submitting in obedience to the Holy Spirit’s direction in His life. This same power is available to you. You too can obey in the power of the Holy Spirit. It starts when you admit you cannot obey on your own and ask the Holy Spirit to give you the power to obey the Father. The Holy Spirit will enable you to not only cry out “Father,” but also to submit to His will and agenda and not your own.

Obedience is like the language of love to God, meaning it is one of the things that truly communicates our love for Him. Jesus understood this idea and not only demonstrated it for us in His own life, but told us about God’s desire, “*Why do you call me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say?*” (Luke 6:46). John the Baptist too spoke of obedience, when God sent him to prepare the people for Jesus’ coming. John called the people to turn from disobedience to a lifestyle of obedience (Luke 1:17). Obedience is how we say, “Father, I love you!”

## Challenge

Obey! Obey! Obey! Always remember that your heavenly Father’s love language is obedience. Jesus is our model of how to say “Yes” to God and “No” to our selfishness.

*“During the days of Jesus’ life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered.”*

Hebrews 5:7–8

Spend a few minutes asking God what He wants you to do. Then obey! Find a friend to share what God has said to you today through His Word.

**Think about this verse: Hebrews 5:7–8**

# Day 5

## Growing in the Word

*“During the days of Jesus’ life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered.”* Hebrews 5:7–8

Jesus always lived in obedience to the Father. He always reverently submitted to the will of the Father instead of to His own will. Begin your time with Him today, thanking Him for Jesus and for the Holy Spirit who gives us the strength to obey God. Speaking to God through prayer is the means by which we communicate directly with our Father. There is not a specific method of prayer or any set script, but we can go to Him any time, any place, with any need or want. God wants us to speak with Him just like we would another person. Prayer is a conversation with our Father. In our prayer, we can be persistent, bold and specific, and unorganized in our thoughts like children. It gives us the opportunity to quiet our hearts and hear His voice through Scripture. Try your own prayer today.

Yesterday, we talked some about how God’s love language is obedience. These two things—love and obedience—are inextricably linked together for God. He wants us to follow His leading so that He can continue to give us more and specific guidance and also as a way that we can show our love for Him. The best way to know what God wants for our lives is through reading his love letter to us—the Bible. It reveals who He is, what He has done for us and who we are in Jesus. Another of the Holy Spirit’s jobs is to help us get to know God through His words in the Bible.

*“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.”* Psalm 119:105

*“Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.”* John 17:17

These verses show us how dependable the Bible is. It is a love letter to us, and it is also the absolute truth—without the exaggerations and fancy flourishes that so many human love letters contain. Yes, parts of it are beautiful, but it all works together to tell us how God came to create us and what He has been doing since that moment in order to save us for eternity. But along with the history, it is full of solid direction and teaching for our day-to-day lives.

**Read Matthew 4:4. Write down what these verses tell you about the words of God.**



So, not only is God's Word a love letter and a lamp to guide our paths, but it is also our spiritual food. As a new believer, it is very important to be eating. We need His Word to grow in our relationship with God. The Holy Spirit will help us understand what God is saying to us through His Word.

God's Word and the story of Jesus' life that is found in them are meant to feed and strengthen us. Once, Jesus even says, *"I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty"* (John 6:35). Since Jesus obeyed God so perfectly, His life is an example for ours; He has become bread to feed us in our spiritual walk.

As a new believer, it is very important to follow Jesus' example and allow the Word of God to become your guidance for the day. Jesus lived His life by every word that came out of the Father's mouth. He relied on the Holy Spirit to guide Him, teach Him and remind Him of all that was written in God's Word. We should live our lives by the words of the Father, just as Jesus did.

If we obey God, there is so much that He wants to do for us. In other words, if we show our love for Him by obeying Him, he will show us His love in return in ways we can't even imagine. 1 Corinthians 2:9 says, *"No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him."* That is for you, God's obedient child. God has so many incredible things prepared for you and the Holy Spirit will reveal them to you—the deep hidden things about God your Father, who He is, what He has done for you and who you are as His child.

### Challenge

Take a moment and think about what you have learned today about God's Word and Jesus.

Spend some time allowing the Holy Spirit to guide you in prayer. Ask Him to bring to mind the things that you should be praying about, regarding obeying God and finding His will in the Bible. As thoughts enter your mind, bring them before your Father in Heaven. Just talk to Him about your life.

**Think about this verse: Matthew 4:4**

# Day 6

## Growing in Exalting the Father

*“Jesus answered, ‘It is written: “Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.””* Matthew 4:4

Jesus really delved into the Word of God and quoted from the Old Testament over 70 times. He consumed the Scriptures. He read, He meditated on and He memorized them. The Bible was like spiritual bread to Jesus and it caused Him to grow in wisdom. It will do the same for you.

Begin your time by thanking God for His Word—the Bible—which He has given to you. Ask Him to lead, teach and remind you about Jesus all day long. Create your own prayer again today: “Father, I love you . . . Help me! Amen.”

Jesus’ life ambition was to exalt His Father at every moment. Exalting, or glorifying, means to lift up and praise the name of the Father, honoring him in all our actions. We do not just glorify when we sing, but when we read and obey his words and when we act as Christians in our daily lives. John 17 talks about the relationship that Jesus had with His Father and how each reciprocally glorified each other. Verse 4 says, *“I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do.”* This shows how Jesus gave glory to His Father through obedience. And we can do the same thing. We can glorify God by believing in (and following) the Son, who in turn lived His life perfectly glorifying the Father!

The Bible says that this is what will bring us joy, like it did for Jesus.

*“At that time Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit, said, ‘I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure.’”* Luke 10:21

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, lived a life of joy focused on His Father, not on Himself. His goal was to please God in every circumstance of life. Check out these verses.

**Read John 5:19, 5:30, 8:28–29 and 14:10. What do they say about the close relationship between Jesus and God the Father?**



Jesus always sought to do the Father's will, never His own. He lived a life of prayerful dependence, moment-by-moment, saying, *"Not my will, but yours be done"* (Luke 22:42). Every step of the way Jesus traded His will and desires for those of the Father. Jesus did nothing on His own initiative and always reminded others that He was acting on His Father's will. He always consulted the Father and did what He told Him to do—they were perfectly in sync. Wow!

This is the same way that we are to live. We are to live to please the Father, doing His will and not our own, submitting to the Father's will for us in dependence on His Holy Spirit and listening and obeying!

### **Read Romans 6:12–14. What does it say we are to do in order to glorify God?**

By reading His words and obeying, you will be able to *"offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness"* (Rom. 6:13). This is the ultimate way to exalt and glorify the Father. Like Jesus, we should want to do this and should consider our motivations. If we do love God, we should show Him that through our obedience and glorification of Him. We will be speaking His love language.

*"So we make it our goal to please Him."* 2 Corinthians 5:9

*"And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please Him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God."* Colossians 1:10

*"Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."* Romans 12:1–2

### **Challenge**

As we offer ourselves to God as living sacrifices, dying to our will and obeying His will, we please Him in every way. Make it your life goal to please God. Then go tell someone else that your life goal is to please Him. This will help you begin to tell the story of your changed life in your own words.

### **Think about this verse: 2 Corinthians 5:9**

# Day 7

## Growing in Relationships with Others

*“The one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what pleases him.”*

John 8:29

Jesus always pleased His Father. He lived a life of obedience to Him, always choosing the Father’s will over His own. He constantly obeyed and submitted to how the Holy Spirit was teaching, guiding and reminding Him. The Father was always with Him through the person of the Holy Spirit.

*“So we make it our goal to please him.” 2 Corinthians 5:9*

I want to make it my life goal to please my Father in heaven just like Jesus did. I hope you do as well. As a son of the Most High God, there is nothing that motivates me more than wanting to please my Father. Take a moment to talk to your Father in heaven and tell Him that your desire is to please Him today in everything. Create your own prayer again: “Father, I want to please you today in everything . . . Help me! Amen.”

As we seek to please the Father just like Jesus, we need to grow in our relationships to others. We need to learn to love them just as God loves us—unconditionally. Check out these verses. They are often called the Great Commandment. Jesus actually says the whole of the Word of God could be summed up in these verses.

**Read Matthew 22:35–40. What does Jesus say is the greatest of all commandments?**



Jesus says that there are three people we are to love: the Lord our God, our neighbor and ourselves. He goes on to say that all the rest of the Law and the writing of the Prophets hinges on this commandment, meaning that without love for our Lord, neighbors and ourselves, the rest is worthless. If there is constant hate in our hearts, all the good deeds and obedience mean nothing. Jesus also put it this way:

*“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”*

John 13:34–35

We are to love one another just like Jesus loves us. Jesus loves us so much that He opened His arms wide and died for us on the cross. The love that Jesus is talking about here is an unconditional, sacrificial love. A selfless love, a love that is supernatural, a love from God Himself. But how can we love people like Jesus does?

**Read Ephesians 3:14–21. What does Paul pray for the believers in these verses?**

It is the Holy Spirit who strengthens us and gives us the power to love as Jesus loves. The Holy Spirit teaches us the depth of the love of God for us and leads and enables us to love others. Our job is to learn these lessons from the Spirit, while yielding to His guiding to love others and remember God’s love for us.

*“I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being.”* Ephesians 3:16

### **Challenge**

Who is God calling you to love? Stop for a moment and ask your Father to lead you by His Holy Spirit as to whom He wants you to love today. Now obey!

**Think about this verse: Ephesians 3:16**

# Day 8

## Holy Spirit POWER

*“I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being.”* Ephesians 3:16

Jesus made certain priorities in His life on Earth, priorities that we should try to mirror. An easy way to remember these things is to think about Holy Spirit POWER, since He accomplished them all with the help of the Holy Spirit. On Earth, Jesus lived:

- Prayerfully dependent
- Obedient in everything
- Word-centered
- Exalting the Father
- Relationally loving others

It is Holy Spirit POWER that will enable us to do these things as well. It is not us but the Holy Spirit who lives in us and strengthens us with power to obey.

Take a moment to talk to your Father in heaven and thank Him for the Holy Spirit power that strengthens you from the inside out: “Father, thank you . . . Help me! Amen.”

As we seek to please the Father and obey Him in everything, we grow like Jesus. Always remember God’s love language is obedience—that is how you say, “I love you” to God. The Holy Spirit’s job is to remind you of this; your job is to submit to and obey God’s will and not turn a blind eye or a deaf ear to the Holy Spirit. Not listening or responding to the Holy Spirit’s work in your life is called “grieving the Holy Spirit.”

**Read Ephesians 4:29–32. What do these verses tell us to get rid of (things that grieve the Holy Spirit)? Make a list.**

*“And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God.”* Ephesians 4:30

We are not to grieve the Holy Spirit by living a life of disobedience. Instead, we are to submit to and allow Him to produce spiritual fruit in us.



**Read Galatians 5:22–23. Make a list of the fruit that the Spirit of God will produce in your life as you submit to God the Father’s will and the Holy Spirit’s work.**

Fruit #1 —

Fruit #2 —

Fruit #3 —

Fruit #4 —

Fruit #5 —

Fruit #6 —

Fruit #7 —

Fruit #8 —

Fruit #9 —

As you submit to the power of the Holy Spirit in your life, He will produce this fruit in you. You are simply the branch that bears the fruit that He creates. So it is not about trying harder to have love, patience, kindness, etc, in your life, but a matter of making yourself available by submitting and yielding to God the Father’s work in you through His Holy Spirit. He wants you to be filled with the Spirit, in order to produce good fruit instead of bad practices.

*“Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.”*

Ephesians 5:18

### **Challenge**

We grieve the Holy Spirit when we take control of our lives. This always produces the fruit of bitterness, rage, anger, etc. We need to be filled with the Holy Spirit and in obedience to Him, which will please the Father and produce the fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Be filled with the Spirit today and watch the spiritual fruit grow in your attitude and in your life.

**Think about these verses: Galatians 5:22–23**

# Day 9

## Walking Like Jesus

*“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.” Galatians 5:22–23*

Take a moment as you begin your time with God and thank Him for His Holy Spirit who is in you and is producing spiritual fruit that will last for eternity. Go ahead—just thank Him and yield yourself to God the Father today and His work in you and through you: “Father, thank you . . . Help me! Amen.”

For the last eight days we have been looking at growing like Jesus. We have learned that Jesus grew as He relied on the work of the Holy Spirit in His life. We grow spiritually the same way. It will be very important as you begin your life-long study of the life of Jesus to remember that just as Jesus grew, so will you. It is in the life of Jesus that you will discover that He is not only the Way to Heaven, He is also the Truth, and, as you go deeper, you will discover that He is the Life. In Him is life—the Bible tells us that whoever has the Son has life, but without him, we are not really living (1 John 5:12). That is why we call ourselves Christians, because it is all about Him and not about us. As you study the life of Jesus you will see several things:

Jesus was always filled with the Holy Spirit.

*“Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the desert.” Luke 4:1*

Jesus was always led by the Holy Spirit.

*“Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil.” Matthew 4:1*

Jesus performed miracles by the power of the Holy Spirit.

*“But if I drive out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.” Matthew 12:28*

Jesus, being filled, led and empowered by the Holy Spirit, pleased the Father at all times and in every way. And we are challenged to do the same.

**Read 1 John 2:6. Write this verse down word for word.**

**What does it mean to you to live or walk like Jesus did?**

Growing like Jesus is really about learning to walk just as Jesus walked. That is why it is so important to study the life of Jesus. He, who was filled with, led by and empowered by the Spirit, discovered the joy of the Spirit, the joy of obedience and abandonment to the will of God. So can you as you obey the Word of God.

Walking with Jesus shows our growth in our relationship with Him. Just as we talked about being born again as a baby into a new life with God, and needing spiritual food, which we receive through the Bible, walking is the next step. Like a toddler, learning to get around, we watch the examples we are given—most especially Jesus’ life—and learn to walk as He did. Though we may not be perfect and may fall from time to time, we must learn to rise again. And the Spirit is always there to help us, but we must listen to and obey him in order to continue growing. The Bible offers encouraging words for us, regarding our dependence on the Holy Spirit:

*“Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.”*  
Ephesians 5:18

*“But when he, the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth.”* John 16:13

*“But the Counselor, 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 14:26

The Holy Spirit will fill us up so that we can try to turn away from sin and immoral living. He shows us truth and teaches us the ways of the Father. We must use the POWER of the Holy Spirit to help us in our walk.

 **Challenge**

The challenge is to walk just as Jesus walked. We are challenged to live a lifestyle like Jesus, of choosing God’s will over our wills. It is a lifestyle of being filled with the Spirit, led by the Spirit and empowered by the Spirit.

*“Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did.”* 1 John 2:6

I want to challenge you today to tell someone else about your desire to be filled with, led by and empowered by the Spirit.

**Think about this verse: 1 John 2:6**



# Day 10

## A Walking, Talking Temple

*“Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did.” 1 John 2:6*

Growing like Jesus ultimately leads to learning to walk as Jesus did when He was here on Earth. This can only be possible as we are filled with, led by and empowered by the Spirit. Take a moment as you begin your time with God to thank Him once again for the Holy Spirit who lives in us: “Father, thank you . . . Amen.”

The Holy Spirit is the one whom Jesus promised and the one whom the Father sent. I have been challenging you to live your life just as Jesus did: Prayerfully dependent, Obedient in everything, Word-centered, Exalting the Father and Relationally loving others. That is Holy Spirit POWER. That is how Jesus lived His whole life and our challenge is to do the same. Jesus sacrificed His own will for the will of the Father. This is what we are called to do on a moment-by-moment basis.

**Read 1 Corinthians 3:16. What do these verses teach us about who we are?**

We have been talking about how Jesus always relied on and was never separated from the Spirit and how we are to be filled with the Holy Spirit as well. When that happens, we realize that we are temples to God—walking, talking temples. In the beginning of the Bible, in the Old Testament, the temple was a place that housed the presence of God Almighty—whether a tent or a spacious temple of stone built by a king. Today, however, we can meet God wherever we are at. We no longer need to go to a special place at a certain time to speak with God, though it is still good to establish times to study His Word as we grow. Now, we are each a temple, communicating with God in our own times and places, being filled with the Spirit and obeying and glorifying Him.

The Bible says that *“the God who made the world and everything in it . . . does not live in temples built by hands”* (Acts 17:24). That is because He lives in us; He lives in temples built with His very own hands. These are temples He has molded and shaped and built, not some human king. This means that He has poured His love into each and every one of us and has made us beautiful and special and worthy of meeting and growing with Him. Wow!

*“Don’t you know that you yourselves are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit lives in you?”*

1 Corinthians 3:16

*“For we are the temple of the living God.”* 2 Corinthians 6:16

Is that incredible or what? God has chosen to take up residence in you through His Holy Spirit! Now we do not have to go to a temple to visit with God because He lives in us. This means we are allowed an even closer and more personal walk with our Lord and Savior. We can speak directly with the Father through the help of the Spirit without offering up burnt sacrifices and interacting with priests, like the people living in the Old Testament. The Father gave Jesus to us as a gift to ensure that we can walk with and worship God on a personal level.

**Read 1 Corinthians 6:18–20. What does God want us to do with the temple in which He resides through His Holy Spirit?**

These verses describe how our union with God is as binding and permanent as a sexual union—we become “one flesh.” In this, God is showing how we are to honor Him with our actions and our spiritual walk, because we are a part of Him, because we are His temple. God expects us to keep the temple clean, and to keep garbage out, like bad attitudes, sexual impurity and any unclean thing. He does not want any other god to be placed in the temple—gods like money, other people, sports or possessions. These are false gods who are not really gods at all.

### **Challenge**

The challenge is to go out and be a living, walking, talking temple in which God resides. God wants to take the temple to the people, so you are that temple and, ultimately, His ambassador. Go tell the world. Don’t stop with just this study. Use what you have been learning and the Holy Spirit, who is living in you and will empower you to obey God. He will show you the truth. Your job and mine is to submit to His leadership in our lives and obey, as we try to live like Jesus.

**Think about this verse: 1 Corinthians 3:16**

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