

DO YOU REALLY WANT TO GROW UP?

(What's Behind our Annual Spiritual Growth Campaign)

40 Days of Prayer – Week 1

(Note – may only be reproduced for use as a participant in MCF's 40 Day of Prayer campaign)

Welcome 40-Purpose. Our Spiritual Growth campaign for this year. Every yr- for decades- a spiritual growth campaign. WHY?

Most of the problems in your life- spir. Immaturity
(bad decisions based on FEELINGS)

Spir growth is God's will! Babies - cute. But tragic...

EPH. 4:14 "We are not meant to remain as children at the mercy of every chance wind of teaching... Instead we are meant to hold firmly to the truth in love, and to grow up in every way into Christ...." (Ph)

so today I want to explain the underpinnings of where were going...

Every campaign is built on...

SIX LAWS OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH

1. WE GROW WHEN WE FEED ON GOD'S WORD

This is your *soul* food.

MT.4:4 Jesus: "People need more than bread for their life; they must feed on every Word of God." (NLT)

what if you only ate one big meal every Sunday?

ACTS 20:32 Paul: "... the Word of grace is able to build you up and give you all the blessings that God has for his people."

HOW DO YOU FEED? 6 ways (HAND from 201)

Hear... Read... Study... Memorize... Meditate... Apply

During 40 Days of Prayer- we use all 6 of these in your action steps

Action Step: A Daily Time with God for 40 days

2. WE GROW WHEN WE LEARN IN DIFFERENT WAYS

God loves diversity- Never copies. Never makes clones

Unique fingerprint.... eye print... & learning style!

Go

LK. 3:18 "In many different ways John preached the good news to the people." (CEV) Why did John the B use different styles of teaching?

4 most common

👂 By Listening (Auditory)

👁️ By Watching/Reading (Visual)

🗣️ By Talking (Verbal/Oral)

👉 By Doing it (Physical/ Kinesthetic)

JOB 33:14 God speaks in different ways, and we don't always recognize his voice." (CEV)

ILL: Growing up in a pastor's home- *why don't people grow?*

1. They don't take notes- so forget
2. They have different learning styles!

In a campaign, we use **ALL 4 major learning styles** – for reinforcement!
like hitting a nail 4 times!

3. WE GROW WHEN WE DEVELOP SPIRITUAL HABITS

Your character is the sum total of your habits

You can't say you have the quality of kindness unless...habitual!

Called: Sp disciplines. Devotional practices. Habits
prayer, QT, personal BS, solitude, tithing, fellowship,
fasting, serving, listening.... journaling **THE BUILDING BLOCKS**

We introduce these in Class 201 – but reinforce thru campaigns

How do you develop habits? **REPETITION & PRACTICE**

ILL: Takes 6 weeks -everyday...

JN 13:17 "Now that you know these things, you'll be blessed if you practice them!"

What happens when you practice good habits? **You grow up!**

HEB. 5:14 "Solid food is for mature people, whose minds have been trained by practice to know the difference between good and evil." (GW)

The difference between successful & unsuccessful people
is that successful people develops habits that others won't!

ILL: Tom Brady -oldest QB in NFL. Why? Read the list of his habits..
Most are **not willing to be that disciplined!**

1 COR. 9:25 "All good athletes train hard and practice to get better. They do it to win a prize that won't last. But we practice to win a prize that will last forever!"

During 40 Days of Prayer we'll focus on 4 habits to strengthen you

👉 Habit of weekly large group worship (weekends)

👉 Habit of small group fellowship (weekday) Midweek lift!

This is how Jesus STRUCTURED the church for your support: large/small

ACTS 2:46-47 screen "Every day the believers had the habit of meeting together in the temple courts (to worship together) AND also in their homes

(for fellowship). They ate together and celebrated with happy and thankful hearts. They praised God and the whole community liked what they saw in these people. As a result, the Lord added to their groups daily as their neighbors were being saved." To be a strong believer- need both!

Then read **—** Habit of a daily time alone with God Prayer & Bible
— Habit of memorizing God's Word

Would you like to succeed in life? I want you to
Only promise of success in Bible

JOSH. 1:8 screen "Always remember what is written in this Book. Read it and think about it every day and be sure to obey everything written in it. IF YOU DO THIS, you will be prosperous and successful in your life."
Do you think God is lying here?

4. WE GROW WHEN WE HELP EACH OTHER GROW

Spiritual growth is RELATIONAL. Better together!

ROM. 1:12 "I want us to help each other with the faith we have. Your faith will help me, and my faith will help you." (NCV)

FACT: You will never grow to spiritual maturity by yourself!
You must have other people in your life!
God wired us this way! 56 one another's.
ILL : the hand can't say to the eye...

Why relationships essential to Sp growth?
Because the #1 skill God wants you to learn is LOVE!

We only grow in community with others!

HEB. 10:24-25 "Let us be concerned for one another, to help one another to show love and to do good. Let us not give up the HABIT of meeting together, as some are doing. Instead, let us encourage one another all the more..." (TEV)

Action Step: Join in a small group

(hands) In a group right now? Not...but would like to be for this study?

- o Need to start 500 new groups
- o explain H.O.S.T. (over 7,000 hosts)
- o We'll give you everything you need : explain KIT

Story: 40 Days of Purpose- 3,200 volunteered showed up!

- o Join me -1 hr next Fri, Sat or Sun (back card) EMPOWER
The host grows the most!

5. WE GROW WHEN WE EXPECT TO GROW (the faith factor)

MT. 9:29 Jesus said, "According to your faith will it be done to you."

Do you know what God is doing in your life right now?
Exactly what you expect them to do!

Expecting TO grow? Miracle? Breakthrough? Set a goal.

You need to start this campaign with the spirit of faith:
I AM going to grow a lot in the next 40 days!!

6. WE GROW WHEN WE COMMIT TO GROW

Fact: growth is **not automatic**. Intentional! A choice.
You must choose to grow

Q: One yr from today will you be spiritually stronger? Only if **intend to be!**

Ask a very personal question: how badly do you want to grow?
Do you really want to grow up? Or do you want just a spiritual baby?
What are you willing to do?

JER. 29:13 God: "You'll find me when you get serious about finding me and want it more than anything else." (Mes)

Action Step: Covenant with other

NEH. 9:38 Nehemiah: "In view of all this, we are making a covenant together in writing, and all of us are signing our names to it..."
GO THROUGH CARD

IN 1980... I made a 40 yr covenant with this church
didn't really think about it until the 35th anniversary.

Now; **IF it's okay with you- I'd like to sign a new covenant**
And stay here a little while longer!

Why? I'm committed to **your** personal growth.
I want you to grow up!

It's why I design & our team develops these S.G. campaigns

My Goal: **2 COR. 13:9** "Our greatest wish and prayer is that you will become mature Christians." (LB)

What are YOU going to do for the next 7 weeks?

2 choices: 1. Do nothing... miss out OR 2. Get serious about the most important part of your life and DEVELOP SOME NEW HABITS