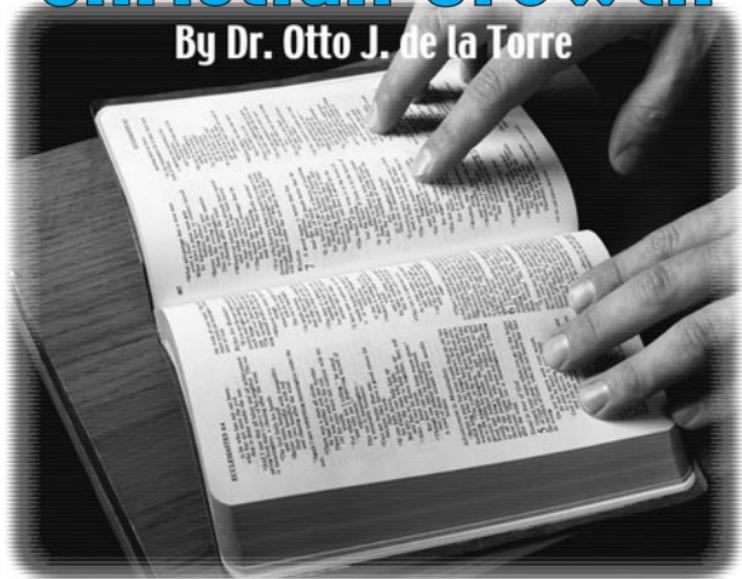


# Guidelines For Christian Growth

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**The Lord Jesus Christ desires the best for your life. He desires that you develop and grow in the ways of the Lord and that each day you know Him better and know His will for your life. Here we have given you some practical recommendations that will help you grow as a Christian.**

## 1. Read The Bible Every Day

The Bible is the Word of God. As Christians, we are nourished spiritually by the Word of God. In the Bible, we find the will of God for our lives and we learn more about the Lord and how to know Him better.

The Bible tells us: "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work." (2 Timothy 3:16,17)

## 2. Pray Every Day

Prayer is to talk, or converse, with God. You can pray anywhere, but you should set aside at least an hour each day to be in communion with the Lord. Allow God to talk to you also. When you pray, confess your sins, give Him thanks for everything, and praise and worship Him because He is God.

The Bible tells us: "Pray without ceasing." (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

## 3. Attend A Church Where The Word Of God Is Preached

When the Lord Jesus Christ came to Earth and lived among men, He went very often to the synagogues and the Temple in Jerusalem to worship His heavenly Father. We, as Christians, should imitate the Lord and gather in a local church to worship and serve God as He desires and to have fellowship with other brethren in Christ. We should be part of a congregation where the **whole** Word of God is preached, believed and put into practice.

The Bible tells us: "...not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching." (Hebrews 10:25)

#### **4. Confess Your Sins To God**

When we sin against God or our neighbor, we must immediately confess our sins to God and settle things with the person whom we have offended. "Confessing our sins" to God means that we agree with God about what we have done wrong and we say to the Lord that we recognize that we have done wrong, and then we turn away from the sin. If we confess our sins to the Lord, He cleanses us with His blood and forgives us.

The Bible tells us: "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."  
(1 John 1:9)

#### **5. Testify To Others By Your Words And Deeds**

As Christians, we should testify of Christ with our lives and our words to those around us so that God will be glorified through our lives. Remember that the eyes of those who do not know Christ are upon us to see if we really live what we preach. The Bible says: "Then He (Jesus Christ) said to them, 'Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.'" (Matthew 4:19)

#### **6. Obey The Lord In All Things**

If we really love Christ, we will do what He tells us to do. A Christian is a person who has been born again and who follows and imitates Christ in everything. God knows what is best for our lives, and, if He asks that we do something, it is because He knows what is most important for us.

The Bible tells us: "Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments." (1 John 2:3)

## 7. Follow The Example Of The Lord In Fasting

Throughout the entire Bible we find how men and women of God have fasted in obedience to the Lord. The Lord Jesus Christ told us that after He ascended to heaven His disciples should fast, seeking His presence and fellowship.

The Bible tells us: "And Jesus said to them, 'Can the friends of the bridegroom mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? But the days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast.'" (Matthew 9:15)

If you will put these brief suggestions into practice, very soon you will begin to grow into a true disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ.

## The Lord Is One God

### I. God: Three Divine Persons

"Then God said, 'Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness...'" (Genesis 1:26)

"Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are." (John 17:11)

### II. God: Father, Son And Holy Spirit

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit..." (Matthew 28:19)

"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all."  
(2 Corinthians 13:14)

### III. Some Characteristics Of God

"When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to

Abram and said to him, 'I am Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless.'" (Genesis 17:1)

"Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus..."

(Romans 15:5)

"And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:19)

"He who does not love does not know God, for God is love."

(1 John 4:8)

"Who (God) forgives all your iniquities, who heals all your diseases..." (Psalm 103:3)

## **Water Baptism**

### **I. Water Baptism Is A Commandment Of Jesus To The Church**

"He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned." (Mark 16:16)

### **II. Baptism In Water Is An Example To Follow**

#### **A. Jesus Christ was Baptized**

"When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water..." (Matthew 3:16)

#### **B. The Disciples were Baptized**

"So Jesus said to them, 'You will indeed drink the cup that I drink, and with the baptism I am baptized with you will be baptized...'" (Mark 10:39)

### **III. The Meaning Of Baptism In Water**

"Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life." (Romans 6:4)

Baptism in water is a symbol of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

#### **IV. The Way To Be Baptized In Water**

The word "baptize" means: submerge, cover completely with water. "...buried with Him (Jesus Christ) in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead." (Colossians 2:12)

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit..." (Matthew 28:19)

### **The Ministry Of The Lord Jesus Christ**

#### **I. Jesus Christ: God Became Man**

##### **A. Jesus Christ Is God**

"...of whom are the fathers and from whom, according to the flesh, Christ came, who is over all, the eternally blessed God." (Romans 9:5)

##### **B. The Humanity Of Jesus**

"Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross." (Philippians 2:5-8)

#### **II. The Ministry of Jesus Christ**

##### **A. Jesus Christ Saved Man From His Sins**

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

"In Him (Jesus Christ) we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace..."  
(Ephesians 1:7)

### **B. Jesus Christ Heals Man Of His Diseases And Casts Out Demons**

"Then He healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and He did not allow the demons to speak, because they knew Him." (Mark 1:34)

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever."  
(Hebrews 13:8)

### **C. Jesus Christ Perfects The Christian**

"For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren." (Romans 8:29)

### **D. Jesus Christ Will Return To Take The Christians Away**

"In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also." (John 14:2,3)

## **The Ministry Of The Holy Spirit**

### **I. The Holy Spirit**

#### **A. The Holy Spirit Is God**

"Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?" (1 Corinthians 3:16)

#### **B. The Holy Spirit Is A Divine Person**

"However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but what

ever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come."  
(John 16:13)

## **II. The Principal Ministry Of The Holy Spirit**

"He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you." (John 16:14)

## **III. The Baptism Of The Holy Spirit**

### **A. Jesus Christ Baptized With The Holy Spirit**

"He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." (Matthew 3:11)

### **B. The Day Of Pentecost: Baptism Of The Holy Spirit**

"And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance." (Acts 2:4)

### **C. Jesus Christ Is The Same And Continues To Baptize With The Holy Spirit**

"...how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!" (Luke 11:13)

## **IV. The Spirit-Filled Life**

### **A. We Are Commanded To Be Filled With The Spirit**

"Be filled with the Spirit." (Ephesians 5:18)

### **B. We Receive By Faith When We Ask Believing**

"Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us." (1 John 5:14)

## **V. We Should Walk In The Spirit**

"Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh."  
(Galatians 5:16)

## **VI. We Should Be Led By The Holy Spirit**

"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God."  
(Romans 8:14)