

DISCUSSION GUIDE

THE BENEFITS OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH
Make Every Effort — Week 16

ICEBREAKER: If you could run Hollywood, what would you do?

OVERVIEW: Our church is always talking about the importance of spiritual growth. We preach about it. We talk about it. We study it. We read about it. We pray for it. We strive for it. But why? Our spiritual growth obviously benefits God. But does it benefit us? Is all the striving and self-denial worth it? Absolutely? This week we are studying eight benefits of spiritual growth. Let's dig deeper.

1. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain. (Or what was your key takeaway from Sunday's message?)
2. Read 2 Corinthians 13:11. The Bible commands us to become mature – to grow spiritually. What are you doing to be obedient to this command?
3. Read 2 Peter 1:5-7. Do you remember the definitions of the virtues in this passage? Write down the definitions that you remember.
4. How does our spiritual growth benefit God?
5. Read 2 Peter 1:8-11. How does spiritual growth benefit us?
6. 2 Peter 1:8 says that a benefit of spiritual growth is that we will become more useful to God. What are some ways that God wants to use us? How does spiritual growth make us more useful to God?

7. 2 Peter 1:8 also says that a benefit of spiritual maturity is that we will be more productive (fruitful). What are the different kinds of fruit that God wants us to produce? How does spiritual growth make us more productive?
8. 2 Peter 1:9 says that the absence of spiritual growth makes a person blind – leading to bad decisions. How does spiritual growth help us make better decisions?
9. 2 Peter 1:9 says that the person lacking spiritual maturity is shortsighted – focusing on earth rather than eternity. Why is it important to stay focused on eternity rather than life on earth? How does spiritual growth help us to stay focused on eternity?
10. 2 Peter 1:10 says that a benefit of spiritual growth is assurance of salvation. What is assurance of salvation? How does spiritual growth increase our assurance of salvation?
11. 2 Peter 1:10 says that a benefit of spiritual growth is that you will never stumble – you will not backslide. What are the dangers of backsliding? How does spiritual growth help you to avoid backsliding?
12. What are some steps we can take to grow spiritually?

The Last Word: When you focus on spiritual growth, then you are accomplishing the goal of your salvation – not just to get you to heaven, but to get heaven inside of you.