

Growing As A Christian



M

**Feel a need to
grow -**

O

**Have a desire to
grow -**

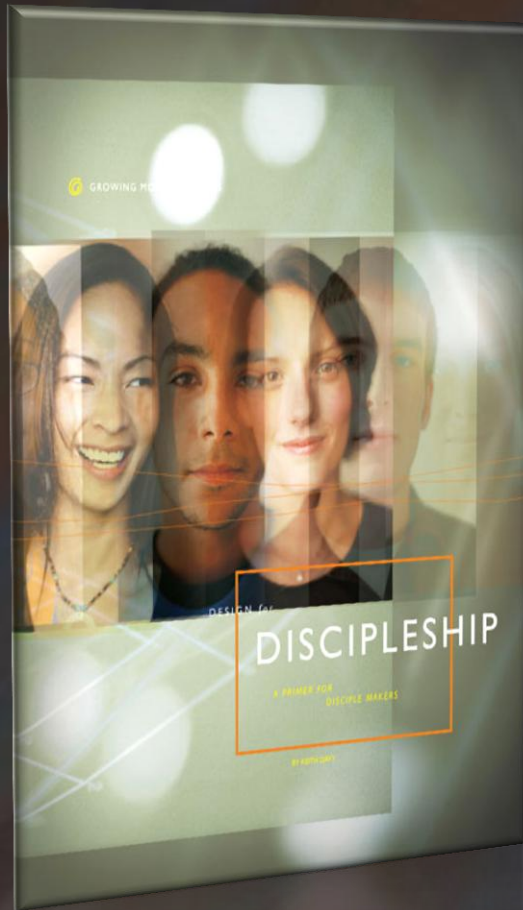
S

**Acknowledge a
need for
assistance to
grow**

T

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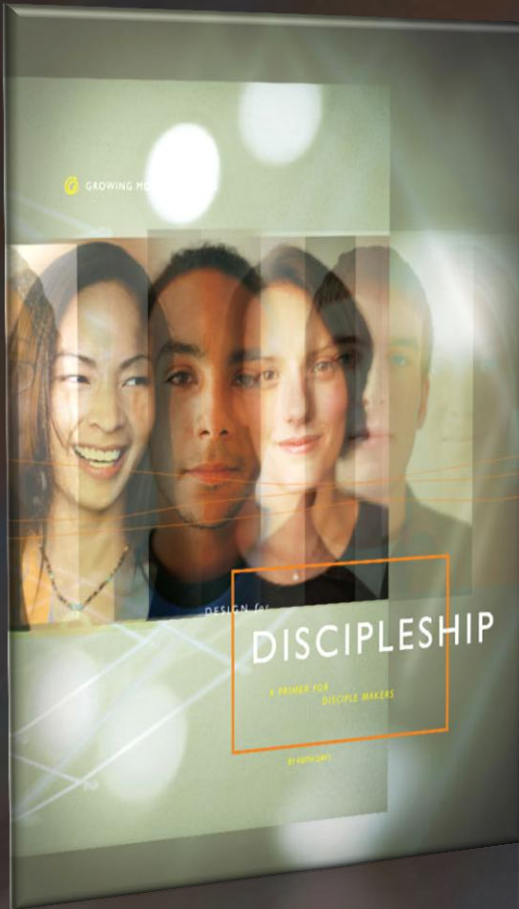
The Need For Spiritual Growth



- ✦ **We are told to** – 1 Pet. 2:2; 2 Pet. 3:18; 1 Thes. 4:1
- ✦ **The parable of the soils** – Mat. 13: 3-17; 18-23
- ✦ **The need to be teachers** – to be skilled in the word – to be able to discern between good and evil – Heb. 5:12-14
- ✦ **That we may be pleasing to God** – Col. 1:9-12

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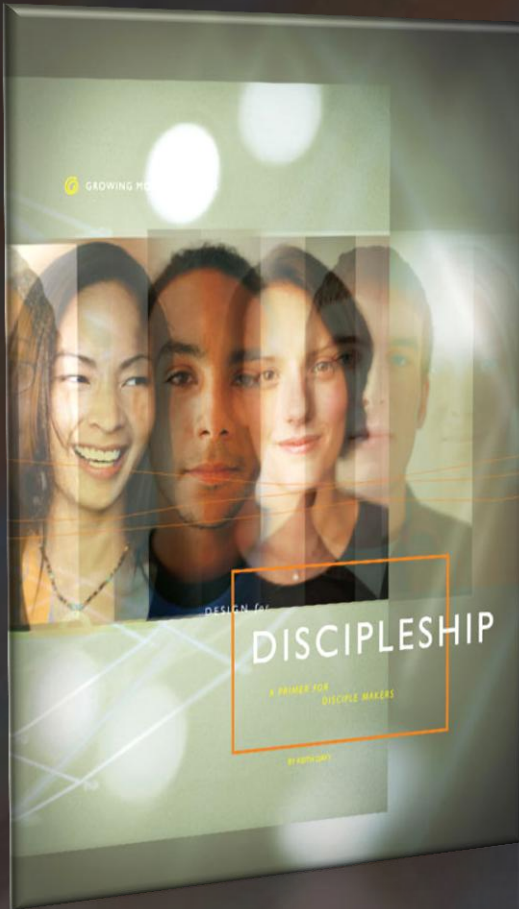
The Path To Spiritual Growth



- ✦ **Simple** – Not elaborate or complex -
- ✦ **Nothing new** – nothing amazing or mystical - mostly things we already know.
- ✦ **Difficult** – No shortcuts - Takes time, great effort and patience.

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The Path To Spiritual Growth

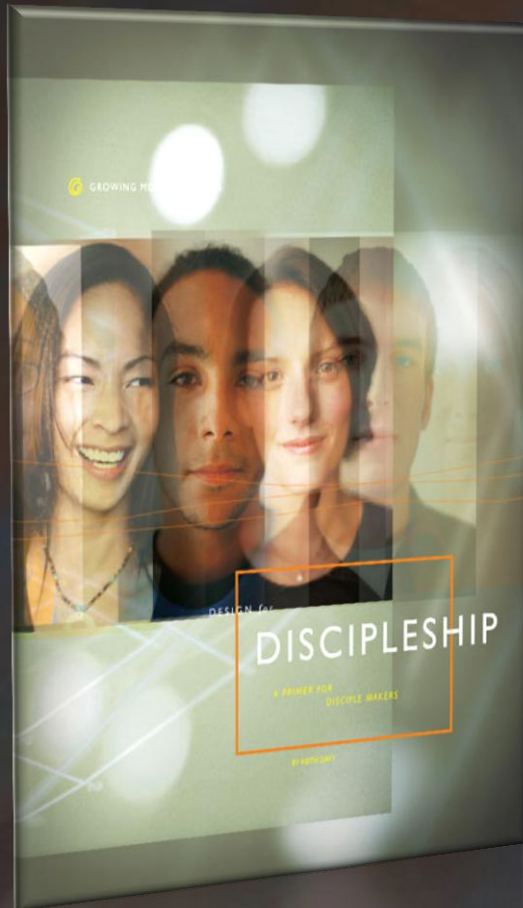


✦ **Commitment** —

- ❖ Can't be double minded -
1 Kings 18:21; Acts 11:23
- ❖ Must choose with purpose
- Jos. 24:15; Mat. 6:33
- ❖ Must approach with
diligence — Heb. 6:11; 2
Pet. 1:5,10

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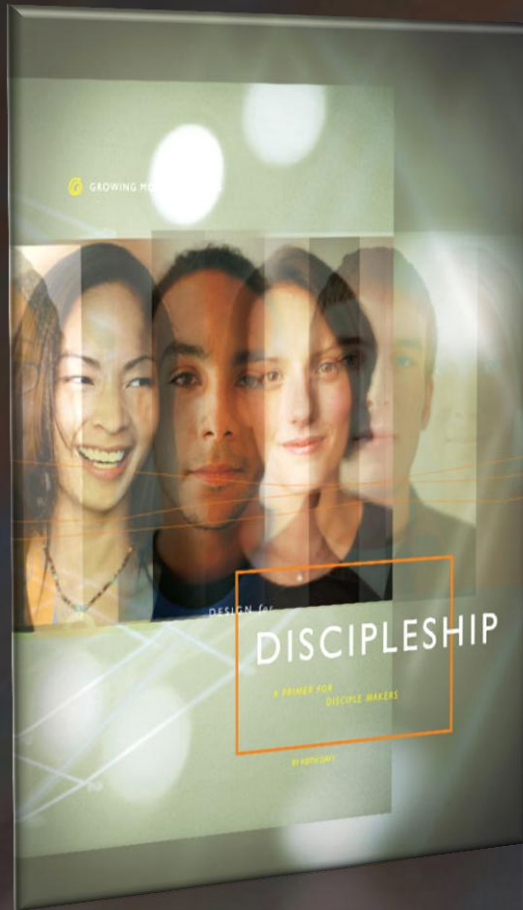
✦ Bible Study —

Psalms 1:2-3 (NKJV)

² But his delight *is* in the law of the Lord, And in His law he meditates day and night. ³ He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper.

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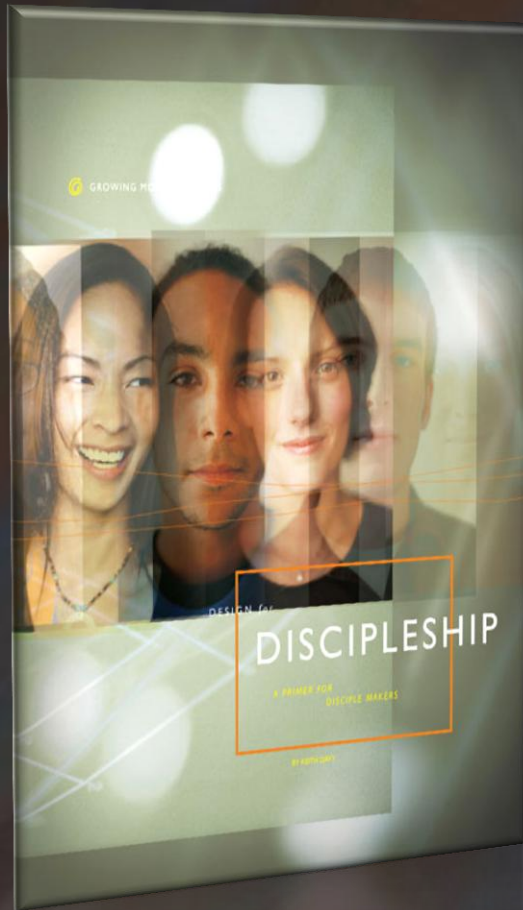


✦ **Bible Study –**

- ❖ **The only source of saving faith – Rom. 10:17**
- ❖ **The only source of spiritual growth – Acts 20:30; 1 Cor. 14:1-5; 1 Pet. 2:2**

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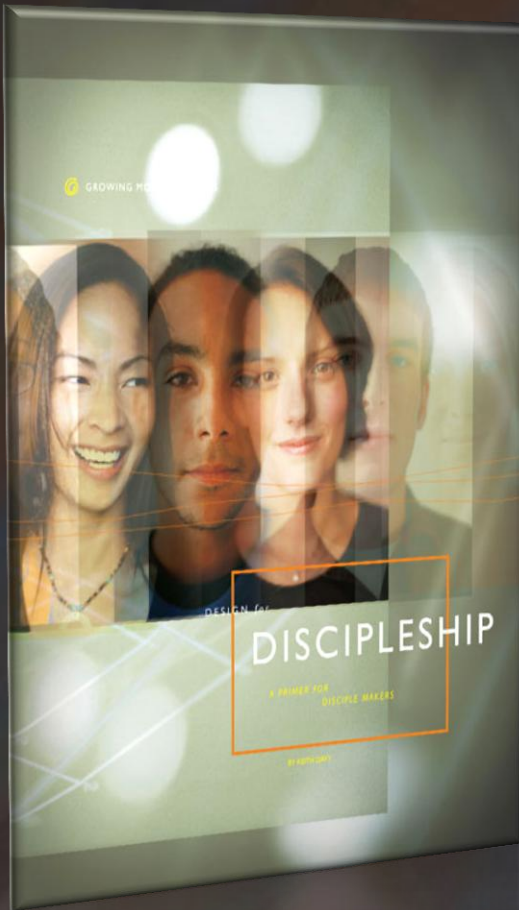


✦ **Bible Study –**

- ❖ **Requires regular & consistent study –** Psa. 1:2; 119:97; Acts 17:11; 1 Tim. 4:13;
- ❖ **Must possess proper attitude -** Acts 17:11; Mat 5:6; Psa. 119:16, 72, 127, 162; 2 Tim 2:15
- ❖ **Must apply what we learn -** Jam 1:21-25; Mat 7:24-27

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✦ **Bible Study Accomplishes —**

- ❖ **Greater knowledge** - (1 Pet. 3:16-18; 2 Tim. 3:16-17)
- ❖ **Gives Wisdom** - (Psalm 19:7; 2 Tim. 3:15)
- ❖ **Discouragement from sin** - (Psa. 119:11; Prov. 2:10,11)
- ❖ **Equips us for service** - (Eph. 4:11-16; 2 Tim. 3:17)

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✦ **Fervent Prayer -**

Supplication

(Request – averting of evil)

Prayers

(Request – obtaining of good)

Intercession

(For others)

Thanks

(Gratitude for blessings)

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✦ **Fervent Prayer -**

- ❖ **Power in prayer -** (1 Pet. 3:12; James 1:5; 5:16)
- ❖ **Need for habitual prayer -** (Psa. 55:16-17; Dan. 6:10; Luke 18:1; 1 Thess. 5:17)
- ❖ **Must be coupled with faith -** (James 1:6; Mark 11:22-24)
- ❖ **According to God's will -** (1 John 5:14)

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✦ **God-Centered Worship -**

- ❖ **Deliberately God-focused -**
(Worship is about God and for God, affects content, mood, organization, and elements)
- ❖ **Worship takes effort -** Easy to let minds wander – be distracted – requires focus
- ❖ **Requires preparation –** true worship is not accidental

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✦ **God-Centered Worship -**

- ❖ **Must be with reverence -** (Lev. 10:3; Heb 12:28,29)
- ❖ **Must be from the heart and according to truth -** (John 4:21-24; Col. 3:16,17)
- ❖ **What we are doing** (singing, praying, hearing, thinking, examining) – 1 Cor. 14:40
- ❖ **Meaning of the Lord's supper** (body, blood, death)

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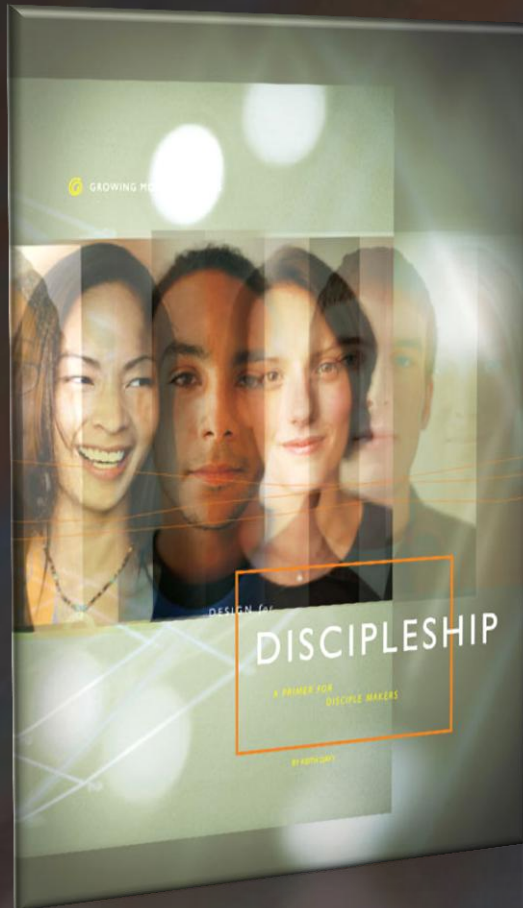


◆ **Service Prompted By Love**

- ❖ **Obey God** – (Mat. 22:36-40; Jn 14:15,21,24; 1 Jn 5:3)
- ❖ **By love serve one another** - (Gal. 5:13; Mat. 22:39; Gal. 6:2; 1 Cor. 13:4-7; James 4:17; 2:15-17)
 - ✓ *Weep & rejoice (Rom 12:15)*
 - ✓ *Restore (Gal. 6:1)*
 - ✓ *Encourage (Heb. 10:24)*
 - ✓ *Participate (Eph. 5:16)*

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- ✦ **Submit to those over you in the Lord** – Heb. 13:17; Eph 4:11-16; 1 Thes 5:12,13;
 - ❖ Apostles & prophets – i.e., respect their writings – (Eph. 4:11; Acts 2:42)
 - ❖ Evangelists, pastors and teachers, - (2 Tim. 4:2; Acts 20:28; 1 Thes 5:12,13)

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The Results of Spiritual Growth

- ✦ **Can resist falling – 2 Pet. 1:5-10**
- ✦ **Can stand strong in the Lord – Eph. 6:10-18**
- ✦ **Able to discern good from evil – Heb 5:14**
- ✦ **Can help others overcome sin – Mat. 7:1-5; Gal. 6:1**
- ✦ **Able to lead others to Christ – Acts 8:4; Heb. 5:12**
- ✦ **Able to help others grow – 2 Tim. 2:2; Rom. 15:1,2**
- ✦ **Able to bear fruit – Gal. 5:22,23; John 15:1-10**
- ✦ **Victorious over death – HEAVEN – Rev. 2:10**

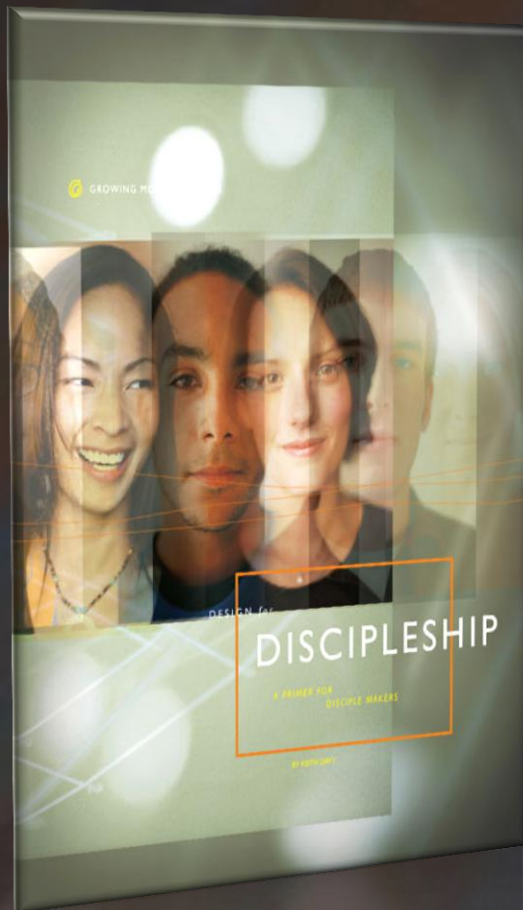


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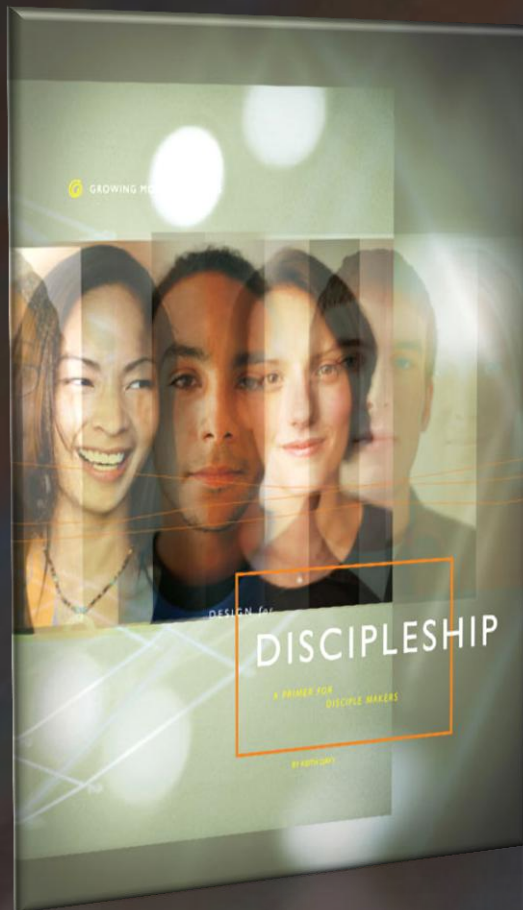
- ✦ Spiritual growth is a divine requirement for every believer.
- ✦ The Word of God is the divine provision for spiritual growth.

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- ✦ **Difficult** – No shortcuts - Takes time, great effort and patience.

Growing As A Christian



- ✦ **We never stay the same** — we will either grow spiritually — or we will spiritually die!
- ✦ **Are you IN CHRIST?** — Have you by faith repented — confessed — been baptized?
- ✦ **Are you growing in Christ?**

Charts by Don McClain

Prepared January 13,14, 2010

Preached January 17, 2010

West 65th Street church of Christ

Little Rock AR 72209

501-568-1062

Email – donmcclain@sbcglobal.net

Email – donmcclain@sbcglobal.net

201-268-1062

LITTLE ROCK AR 72209