

Question #1 What are some obstacles to spiritual growth?

Obstacle #1: Satanic _____ – vv14, 27

- Satan is a liar (Jn 8:44), and he blinds people with his lies (2Cor 4:4).
- 1Peter 5:8
- Every one of his lies are designed to _____ you right where you _____ – to keep you from growing and becoming all you can be for God.

Obstacle #2: Your _____ life vv17-19, 22

B.C. – This stands for **Before Christ**. It deals with events that happened before you knew Christ as your Savior.

A.C. – This stands for **After Christ**. This deals with your life after you have known Jesus Christ as your Savior.

- Mental strongholds established B.C. (Before Christ) can be a problem, and can hinder us in our growth process. We must be aware of this and commit to the “Put Off/Put On Principle in Ephesians 4.

LifeAction Ministry Put On—Put Off Worksheet

<https://lifeaction.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/PutOffPutOnRevivalWorksheet-bw.pdf>

Gateway Biblical Counseling Center "Put Off—Put On" List

<http://gatewaybiblicalcounseling.org/resources/putoffputon.htm>

Neither of these ministries are “Mid-Acts” dispensationally oriented—while most of their applications are good, beware that there may be the possibility of misapplied Scriptures in some of their Put On—Put Off applications.

Obstacle #3: The wrong kind of _____ v14

- Every Christian should be growing and changing!
It is God’s will and plan for you.
- Are you endeavoring to make progress and grow into Christlike-ness? There will be people who will be a drag and drain on you.
- 1Corinthians 15:33 / 1Corinthians 5:9-11 / 2Corinthians 6: 14
- There is NO problem putting a boat into water—but there are BIG problems when the water is getting into the boat.

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Question #2 What are some keys to spiritual growth—to growing into what is God’s purpose is for you?

How does spiritual growth happen? What are some of the keys to growing and changing spiritually?

Key #1: When it comes to spiritual growth, **DESIRE**

is _____.

- What do a _____, a _____, and a _____ have in common?
1Peter 2:2 / Psalm 42:1-2 / 1Corinthians 9:24
- What was Paul’s thoughts on commitment?
Philippians 1:16 / Philippians 3:8 (G...)
- Paul had a burden for us to commit to be Christlike.
Romans 12:1-2

Key #2: You must _____ your mind with truth.

- Before you knew Christ (B.C.), your _____ was programmed to live independently of God.
- Positive and lasting _____ only comes as you renew your mind with truth.

1Peter 2:2 / Romans 12:1 / Colossians 3:1-2

Key #3: You must live a life that is fully _____ with other believers.

- You need to hear the truth, be taught the truth, and learn the truth. God has given to the church spiritual _____ to help you in this process. Ephesians 4:11-12
- But there comes a point when you must _____ the truth.
- You learn how to practice and live truth by dealing with _____.

Conclusion

Will you make a decision today to commit yourself to growing and _____?

Becoming What God Wants You To Be In 2020—

How To Grow Into A Christ-like Believer

Ephesians 4:11-24

Obstacles and Keys To Growing Into A Christ-like Believer

This year and every day until we take our final breath (or Christ returns for us), God has a continuing goal for each and every one of us—to become Christ-like (to become the very character of Christ so that when others look at you—they see Him rather than you).

Let's look at several obstacles and several keys to becoming what God desires you to be this year.

- When you become part of God's family, the Bible likens you to a _____ or _____ in Christ.
- God wants us to _____ this state of immaturity and _____.
- God's goal is that you become a fully _____ Christian that is Christ-like in all areas of your life.
- Verse 15 reveals the secret. We have to "_____."
- **As we grow, Christ permeates every area (all things) of our lives.**
- Growth is not instantaneous. It's _____. Every person trusting Jesus Christ as LORD and Savior should be growing and changing—every day. BUT HOW?
- In order to grow, we must first overcome the barriers to growth. And Paul gives us several keys to grow spiritually and start becoming like Christ.

What is God's goal for you? Romans 8:29; Ephesians 4:15