

Journey Teens Experience Spiritual Growth

by Phil Yoder,
Youth Pastor

Our goal in the youth ministry is to keep in step with Jesus (Gal. 5:25). In this passage, several keys are identified regarding the process of spiritual growth.

Spiritual growth occurs in the context of relationships. At least 27 New Testament passages refer to the "one anothers" of building community and growth. These acts of service can only take place with other believers, rather than in isolation.

Spiritual growth involves daily contests of conflict. Christians should expect a fierce contest between the Spirit and the flesh (Gal. 5:16-17) as a normal part of the Christian developmental experience. Our words and actions reveal the conflict going on inside us.

Spiritual growth starts from inside us and works its way outward. The Fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22 is contrasted to the "works of the flesh" in the previous verses. Like fruit, character qualities formed by the Spirit can only be grown from the inside out. This fruit is a natural product of the Spirit rather than of man, made possible by the living relationship between Christians and God.

Spiritual growth exists in symmetry. The nine qualities ("fruit of the Spirit") grow together. The singular form of "fruit" mentioned here is a unity, like a bunch of grapes instead of separate pieces of fruit. Fruit in a Christian's life cannot be discerned by the presence of only one or two positive character traits. Also, they are to be found in all Christians.

Finally, spiritual growth is brought about by the Holy Spirit. It is the very Spirit of Christ (Rom. 8:9) who lives within us. His character is exactly what God aims to produce in us...the Lord Jesus is our pattern. His Spirit works from the inside out to reproduce this pattern in our lives. Everything depends on the Holy Spirit!

Here are examples of that spiritual growth, when the youth group blessed members of our church with gift baskets and encouragement.



Fellowshipping with Clara

Fellowshipping with Sylvia

Happy Mother's Day!



Order of Service

May 12th, 2024

Call To Worship..... Elder Phil
Worship in Music Congregation
Worship in Testimony..... Elder Phil
Worship in Word **Moms Reveal God's Love**.....Pastor Ted
Honoring Mothers Congregation
Worship in Response Congregation
Benediction..... Pastor Phil

Ways to connect:

Today: let us give thanks to God for our mums!

5/18: Celebration of Life (1pm, Rose Hills Memorial Park): join us as we celebrate Linda Lim's life (Shirley Chun's mother).

5/19: Parent Orientation (Sun, 12pm): update on Youth Ministry and camp.

6/1: Deadline for grads: if you know a student who will graduate or be promoted this year, email <valerie@journeyec.org> to honor them on **6/30**.

6/8: All-Church Movie Viewing (FREE), 2pm, Cinemark at Bella Terra): sign up today for a private viewing of *"Unsung Hero"*, a story of worship leaders King & Country and Rebecca St. James. 61 seats available (includes four disabled seats).

Bulletin photos & announcements: please send to <bulletin@journeyec.org> by Tuesdays .

Elders <name@journeyec.org>

Cliff Char—Young Adults, Worship Music

Hiro Kono—Women, Growth

Joshua Cain—Christian Education, Youth

Peter Leung—Children, Church Sec., Welcome

Phil Jen Kin—Personnel, Facilities & Property,

Rick Chou—Nominations, Pastoral Staff Search

Ron Jue—Deacons, GO Team, Legacy

Victor Wong—CFO, CIC, Vietnamese, SERVE, Hospitality

Deacons <name@journeyec.org>

Pat Leung—lead deacon, Agnes Liu, Allie Poblete,
Darryl Mu, Jeff Way, Paulah Wong, Shirley Chun,
Teresa Jue, Valerie Yee, Wesley Lin

Staff <name@journeyec.org>

Ted Kau—Lead Pastor, ted@journeyec.org

Paul Eng—Chinese Pastor, pastorpaul@

Phil Yoder—Youth Pastor, philyoder@

Peter Leung—Children's Dir., peter@journeyec.org

Roger Yee—Administrator, roger@journeyec.org

Amy Mu—Office Assistant, amy@journeyec.org

Sermon Notes

Pastor Ted • Isaiah 49:13-15

Context, 49:1-12

- Israel _____ by Assyrians in N, and Babylonians in S
- Isaiah _____ a Savior

We are to joyfully worship, despite, _____ 49

His People's Complaint, 49:14

We complain that we are abandoned and _____

Comparison, Contrast, Comfort, 49:15

Mom's love _____ God's love

God's love _____ Mom's love

God comforts us in our sorrows



Emily's Recital

Response of reflection, discussion, obedience:

- A. I believe God's love is reflected and greater than a mother's love
- B. Today I will thank my/a wife/mother for ≥ 1 thing I normally do not notice, and if possible will also take over one of her regular chores
- C. I commit to praying daily for my child(ren) / parents.
- D. There is brokenness or hurt between me and my mom. I will share in a safe relationship or community, and ask for prayer.
- E. For the first time, I confess my sins and accept Jesus as my Lord and Savior