

Atonement
and
Spiritual Growth

Dogmatic Theology

Why is the need for the coming of Christ to our world?

4 types of death:

1) Physical death:

2) Spiritual Death:

3) Moral death:

4) Eternal death:

Conditions to be met by the Redeemer

1) Has to be a human being,

2) Has to be without sin:

3) Has to die but yet stronger than death.

4) Has to be limitless: because sin is limitless.

Spiritual growth

What does it really mean to grow spiritually?

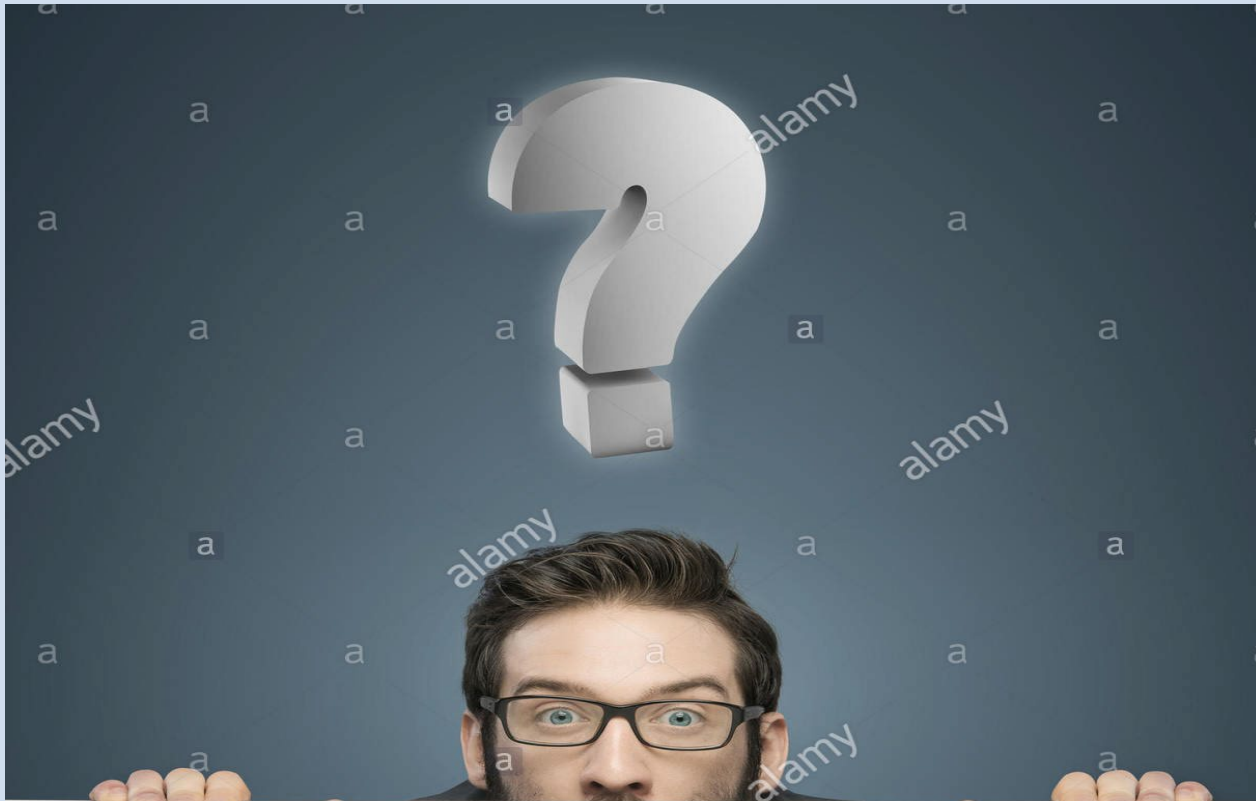
Some **wrong** concepts / definitions to what is spiritual growth:

- + Growth is **about collecting data**:
- + Growth is like **a mechanical process**:
- + Growth is a **religious activity**:
- + Others measure growth by **the things that they do not do**. → Christian Life is not a life to be enjoyed

Spiritual growth

What does it really mean to grow spiritually?

To understand how to grow, we need to understand what happened to our nature, and that **serves as the foundation** of our development. →



Spiritual growth

God created man **in His own image** (Gen 1:27).

but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil **you shall not eat**, for in the day that you eat of it you shall **surely die** (Genesis 2:17)

Through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus **death spread to all men**”
(Rom 5:12)

Our corrupted human nature is born with Adam’s sin (**original sin**) because we were in Adam when he sinned.

but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die (Genesis 2:17)

→ we now have a nature that is corrupted and evil in its core.

→ we lost our dominion over the creation



Spiritual growth

→ a **new birth** is now necessary as a replacement to this defective core

→ In baptism, our lord **restored** the human nature to its original state



when a woman gets pregnant ,
this **new person**, his DNA is
comprised of the genetic code of
the mother and the father.



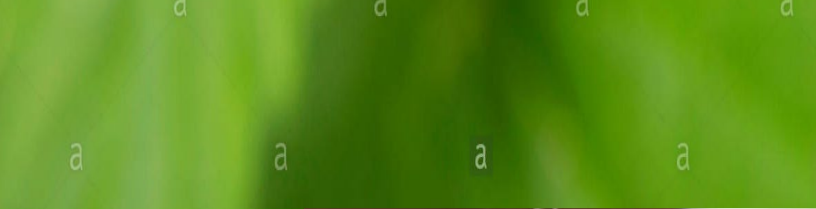
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Spiritual growth

Old nature means doing things **for your own glory / pride / benefit** (worldly reasons).

New nature means doing things **for the glory of God**, even if this leads me to get out of **my comfort zone**.

Examples?

- Follow the commandments at any cost.
- Forgive,
- Serve and spend time for others,
- Don't cheat or lie even if I will loose



Spiritual growth

What does it really mean to grow spiritually?

+ Our lord wants to know that you are an all time Christian not a part time Saint, and that you will obey his commandments all the time not only when it is convenient for you.

+ Spiritual growth is a life to be lived not a lesson to be learned.

That only happens through a relationship

Spiritual growth

What does it really mean to grow spiritually?

+ At church you will learn about growth and will be encouraged But

Growth can only occur where life is being lived.

Based on that:

- I am **not going to liturgy** on Sunday because I have to (though I have to), but for me to see God.
- I am going to **read the bible**, not because one verse a day keeps the devil away, but because I want to hear from my Lord. I want to be in His presence.

Spiritual growth

What does it really mean to grow spiritually?

+ if you are pursuing a relationship with Christ, with the goal of bringing glory to him, you are going to grow at a speed that you have never ever grown before.

• So the reason why we are not experiencing more of God is because He knows that He will not get more glory out of it.

It will only expand **your kingdom** not **His kingdom**.

Spiritual growth

Isn't that selfishness? Nooooo

Because if God allows the caterpillars to multiply →

He has grown up people that do nothing but to

eat up things.



Spiritual growth

Isn't that selfishness? Nooooo

• Whereas **butterflies** pollinate things and help them to develop and expand. →

He Has grown up people that are

in the image of Him







GOD
BLESS
YOU