

# Spiritual Growth and Atonement

# Spiritual growth

What does it really mean to grow spiritually?

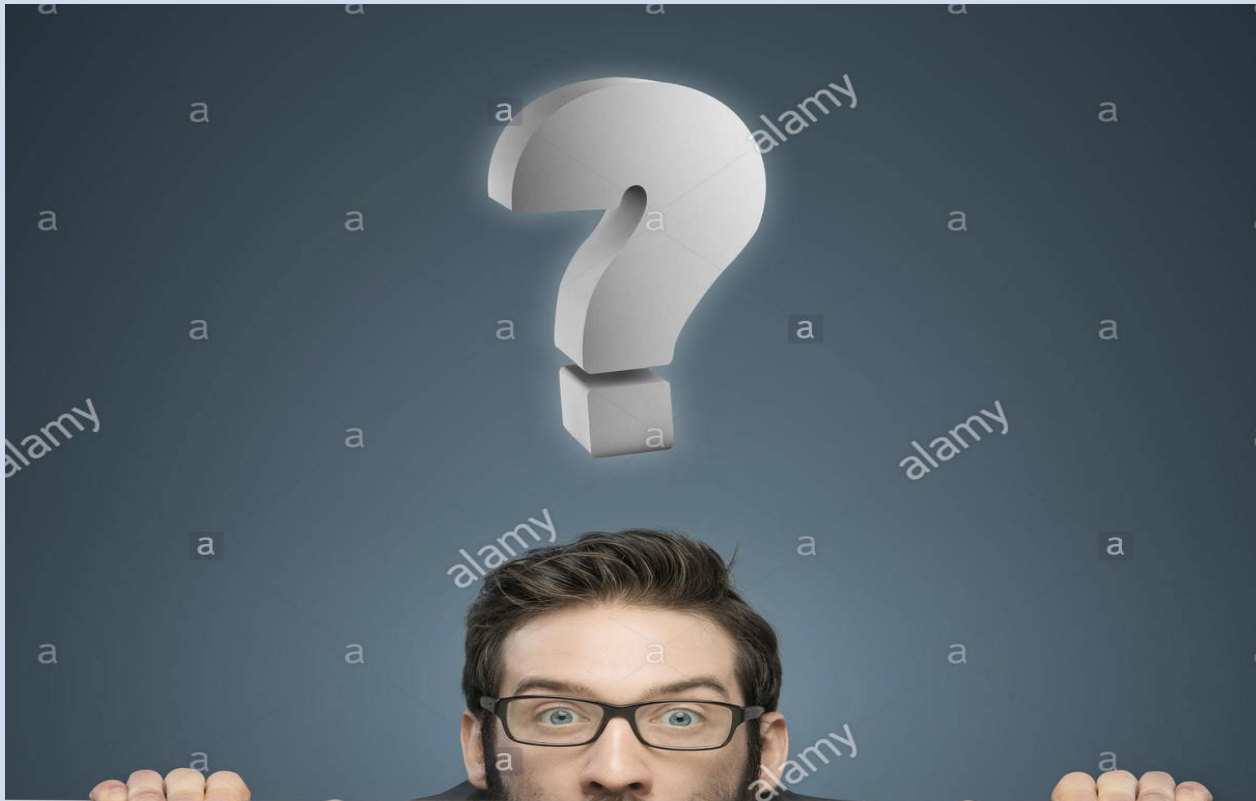
Some **wrong** concepts / definitions to what is spiritual growth:

- + 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
- + The **passive group**: spiritual growth ought to be automated.

# Spiritual growth

What does it really mean to grow spiritually?

To understand how to grow, we have to go back to the nature 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 the loins of Adam while 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)

## 3 types of death:

### 1) Physical death:

In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you [are,] And to dust you shall return".

Genesis 3: 19

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)

### **3 types of death:**

**1) Physical death:**

**2) Spiritual Death:**

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

→ we lost our dominion over the creation



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)

### **3 types of death:**

**1) Physical death:**

**2) Spiritual Death:**

**3) Eternal death:**

For the wages of sin [is] death, **but** the gift of God [is] **eternal life** in Christ Jesus our Lord (Rom 6 :23)

1- Human

2- Without sin

3- Divine / Unlimited



# 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.

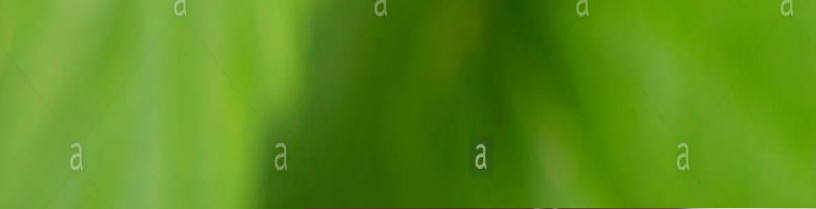


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# Spiritual growth

**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 waste time on others,
- Don't cheat or lie even if I will loose
- 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 you.
- I am going to **read the bible**, not because one verse a day keeps the devil away, but because I want to hear from you today. I want to be in your 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.**

• 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