



Spiritual Growth Guide

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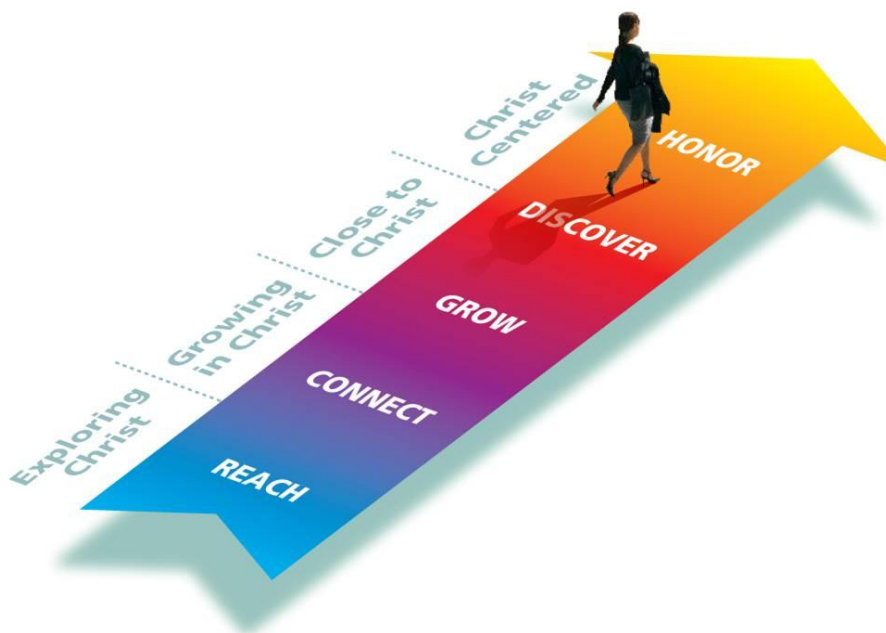
Intro to Spiritual Growth

"Participation in the church is about your spiritual journey towards a deeper relationship with God—a journey that you must own for yourself. The goal of this journey is a deep, intimate relationship with Christ. A relationship that is so important that you freely choose to surrender and re-surrender your agenda and will to God's agenda for you and this world." adapted from **Follow Me**, by Greg L. Hawkins and Cally Parkinson

The tools and resources in this guide will not automatically give you a deeper relationship with Christ. Just as going to Church does not make you a Christian, this guide will not make you like Christ. Philippians 2:13 says, "It is God who works in you to will and to act according to His good purpose."

So, it is our hope and prayer that this guide will put you on the path to a Christ-centered life, that the tools and resources laid out here will help you move forward and deeper, and that they may serve as a catalyst to take you where you've never been before—a deep, vibrant, living, loving relationship with Jesus Christ.

Spiritual Growth at Freshwater



	Exploring Christ	Growing in Christ	Close to Christ	Christ Centered
Where are you?	"I believe in God, but am not sure about Christ."	"I believe in Jesus and I am working on what it means to get to know Him."	"I feel really close to Christ and depend on Him daily for guidance."	"My relationship with Jesus is the most important relationship in my life, It guides all I do."
Growing Spiritually	Establishing a strong foundation of Christian beliefs (like belief in salvations by grace and the Trinity), is crucial for spiritual development and movement.	Invest more time and energy into developing your own relationship with Christ. Make personal spiritual practices (like daily prayer, and reflection on scripture), a natural part of your daily routine.	Invest more time and energy into developing your own relationship with Christ. Make personal spiritual practices (like daily prayer, and reflection on scripture), a natural part of your daily routine.	Redefine your identity based on your relationship with Christ. With Christ the center of your life, you will engage in more faith based activities (like evangelism, serving those in need and discipleship).

Exploring Christ

Is this you?

- Your faith is not a significant part of your life.
- You know there is a God but you don't who He is.
- You've heard the name of Jesus but you don't know who He is.
- You're afraid of death and have no idea what will happen to you after you die.
- You feel like something is missing.
- You rarely, if ever, attend Church, read the Bible, or pray.

Jesus Christ says, in *John 14:6* "*I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through me.*"

Christ is the answer for now and all eternity.

Take the next step:

Do you desire to hear more about God and His son Jesus Christ?

- Attend Freshwater Church (learn more about Freshwater at www.freshwaterchurch.org)
- Read God's Word
- Bible reading plans can be found at the www.Youversion.com link on Freshwater's home page.

Need a Bible? Ask for one at the information station.

Don't like to read? Listen to the Bible at www.Youversion.com

Are you ready to accept Jesus as your Savior?

- Talk to a Pastor, a Church Elder, or Church staff. Freshwater office phone # 952-446-9090
- Or, click the *Steps to Peace with God* link on the Church's website.
- Or take the next step right now and read the next few pages that will clearly help you begin a personal relationship with Jesus Christ right now.

Steps to Peace with God

How to Become a Follower of Jesus

STEP 1: God's Purpose – Peace and Life

God loves you and wants you to experience peace and life—abundant and eternal.

The Bible says...

"We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." Romans 5:1

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:16

"I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly." John 10:10

Why don't most people have this peace and abundant life that God planned for us to have? Because we have our priorities mixed up. If God is not first in your life then everything else will be out of order.

STEP 2: The Problem – Our Separation

God created us in His own image to have an abundant life. He did not make us as robots to automatically love and obey Him. God gave us a will and a freedom of choice. We chose to disobey God and go our own willful way. We still make this choice today. This results in separation from God.

The Bible says...

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23

"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 6:23

Our Attempts to Reach God

People have tried in many ways to bridge this gap between themselves and God...

The Bible says...

"There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death." Proverbs 14:12

"But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear." Isaiah 59:2

No bridge reaches God...except one.

STEP 3: God's Bridge – The Cross

Jesus Christ died on the Cross and rose from the grave. He paid the penalty for our sin and bridged the gap between God and people.

The Bible says...

"For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Jesus Christ." 1 Timothy 2:5

"For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God." 1 Peter 3:18

"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8

God has provided the only way. Each person must make a choice.

STEP 4: Our Response – Receive Christ

We must trust Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and receive Him by personal invitation.

The Bible says...

"Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me." Revelation 3:20

"Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God." John 1:12

"That if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." Romans 10:9

Will you receive Jesus Christ into your life right now?

Here is How You Can Receive Christ:

1. Admit your need, (I am a sinner).
2. Be willing to turn from your sins (repent).
3. Believe that Jesus Christ died for you on the Cross and rose from the grave.
4. Through prayer, invite Jesus Christ to come in and control your life through the Holy Spirit. (Receive Him as Lord and Savior.)

How to Pray:

Dear Lord Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died for my sins. I want to turn from my sins. I now invite You to come into my heart and life. I want to trust and follow You as Lord and Savior.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

God's Assurance: His Word

If you prayed this prayer...

The Bible says...

"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved," Romans 10:13

- Did you sincerely ask Jesus Christ to come into your life? Where is He right now? What has He given you?

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast." Ephesians 2:8-9

- Receiving Christ, we are born into God's family through the supernatural work of the Holy Spirit who indwells every believer. This is called regeneration, or the "new birth."

This is just the beginning of a wonderful new life in Christ. To deepen this relationship you should:

1. Read your Bible everyday to know Christ better.
2. Talk to God in prayer every day.
3. Tell others about Christ.
4. Worship, fellowship, and serve with other Christians in a church where Christ is preached.
5. As Christ's representative in a needy world, demonstrate your new life by your love and concern for others.
6. As one of your first steps of growth as a new Christian, please consider attending our new believer's class called "Next Steps."

For more information about this decision you have made, please call us at 952-446-9090 so we can give you some additional Spiritual Growth materials.

Growing in Christ

Is this you?

- Your faith is becoming a significant part of your life.
- You know there is a God and have made a faith commitment to follow Christ.
- You are looking for ways to grow in your faith and understanding of God.
- You have or would consider volunteering your time for a church related project.
- You have given a few dollars to the church but don't understand "tithing."
- You have started attending church occasionally, reading the Bible, and praying.

Take the next step.

Attend Church Regularly

Believers need each other. We need fellowship and encouragement, and we need to be fed the Word of God. We're also called to sing praises to our Father in Heaven.

Freshwater Church exists to help **REACH** non-believing individuals, to **CONNECT** them with other Christians, to help them to **GROW** in their faith and to challenge the growing, to **DISCOVER** their ministry, and **HONOR** God with their life.

Check out www.freshwaterchurch.org for service times.

"Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching." Hebrews 10:25

"They (the believers) devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer." Acts 2:42

Pray Daily

Prayer is a spiritual communion with God, as in supplication, thanksgiving, adoration, or confession. Prayer draws us closer to God. You can pray anytime, anywhere. God will hear you. He loves you and wants to communicate with you. You can talk to Him about anything.

At Freshwater, we believe in the power of prayer. Send your prayer needs to prayerteam@freshwaterchurch.org.

If you would like to be a part of the Freshwater Prayer Team via email, please email us at prayerteam@freshwaterchurch.org.

"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests." Ephesians 6:18

"Pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

"And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will

be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

"This, then, is how you should pray:" 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.' Matthew 6:5-13

Read Your Bible

How can we be constantly learning more about God if we're not in His Word? As believers, we need to be in the Scriptures daily to strengthen our faith and relationship with God.

"I have hidden Your Word in my heart that I might not sin against you." Psalm 119:11

"Your Word is a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path." Psalm 119:105

Check out the www.Youversion.com link on Freshwater's home page. Or, go to www.backtothebible.org and click the Bible Reading Plans link.

Need a Bible? Ask for one at the information station.

Don't like to read? You can listen to the Bible at www.Youversion.com

Volunteer

God desires to use you to bless the lives of others. God has given every one of us gifts and talents that we can use to serve others and bring glory to Him. Feel like you have nothing to offer? Remember that if you allow Christ to live through you then nothing is impossible.

"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms." 1 Peter 4:10

Check out the Connection Coach link at www.freshwaterchurch.org to get you started on serving at Freshwater. The purpose of a Connection Coach is:

- To help people get connected to a ministry at Freshwater.
- To place volunteers in jobs that best fit their spiritual gifts, personality, abilities, and time.
- To assist people in the next step to grow in their walk with Jesus.

Interested in a Connection Coach?

Email ivantassel@freshwaterchurch.org or call 952-446-9090

Start to give financially (tithe) to the Church

Everything we have is a blessing from God. You say, "But I worked hard for everything I have!" Who gave you the ability to work hard? Who gave you two hands with which to work and a sharp mind? We owe everything we have to God. God wants the first fruits of our labor. Step out in faith and give the first fruits of your labor to God by tithing to your church.

How much? The Biblical standard set for us is 10% of our income. Go to www.freshwaterchurch.org and click on 'Next Steps' - 'Online Giving' to see the different options for giving.

"A generous man will himself be blessed for he shares his food with the poor." Proverbs 22:9

“Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” 2 Corinthians 9:7

Go through Discovery Class

Discover Freshwater is our membership class designed to give you a better understanding of who we are and what we believe. Discussion will include:

- Freshwater’s history, values and purpose statement
- Christianity and doctrine
- Membership covenant
- Lunch with Pastor

Discover Freshwater Membership Class is a 4 week series.

Call the Church Office to find out when the next class begins. 952-446-9090

Participate in Small Groups

What is a Small Group? A Small Group is where friends gather to do life together, under a trained leader. These include studies, service projects, accountability, balancing the 5 purposes of the Church, etc. These can be started anytime, as long as the leader has been through our Small Group Leadership Training. Our desire is that you get involved in a Small Group. Everyone needs to *do life together* with someone. At Freshwater, we do this through small groups. This is where we rapidly grow spiritually and move one step closer in living a Christ-centered life. We have a Small Group emphasis in September and in January each year. During this time we launch Study Groups and Small Groups. **If you are interested in starting a small group:** Contact Luke Vettel at luke@freshwaterchurch.org or 952-446-9090

“All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.” Acts 2:44-47

Sunday Morning Study Groups

The Sunday morning Study Groups are an opportunity to meet some new people at Freshwater and to gain a skill. These are short-term studies that take place Sunday mornings during the services. For more information go to the Information Station located in the lobby at church.

Discover Your S.H.A.P.E Class

Did you know that God has placed within you strengths and giftings to use for His glory? *Discover Your SHAPE* is a three week class that will help you get a clearer picture of what the Bible says about how God has uniquely gifted you. This is what the acronym S.H.A.P.E. stands for:

S stands for Spiritual gift. What spiritual gifts has God given you?

H stands for Heart. What do you have a heart for?

A stands for Ability. What abilities do you have that can be used to glorify God?

P stands for Personality. Are you an outgoing person? A reflective person? Do you like to serve in a group setting or on a much smaller team?

E stands for Experiences. What experiences have you had that you can use in a ministry setting?

Call the church office to find out when the next class starts. 952-466-9090

Get Baptized

Baptism is an important step in your journey as a follower of Christ and an outward symbol of the work He has already done in your life. The Bible paints a beautiful picture of baptism as our identification with Jesus in His death, burial, and resurrection. When you make the decision to accept Christ as your Savior, the Bible says that your old way of life is dead, and you are beginning a new life with Christ.

Accepting Christ as your Savior means you believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross for your sins and that by His death and bodily resurrection, He bridged the gap between you and God for all time. If you have come to this point in your spiritual journey, you are ready to be baptized. At Freshwater, we come together to celebrate your commitment to your new life in Christ. Baptism expresses publicly what you have experienced personally as you committed your life to Jesus Christ.

Why Should I be Baptized?

1. TO FOLLOW THE EXAMPLE SET BY JESUS.

“At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.” Mark 1:9

2. BECAUSE CHRIST COMMANDED IT.

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” Matthew 28:19-20

3. IT DEMONSTRATES THAT I REALLY AM A CHRISTIAN

“... Many of the people who heard Him believed and were baptized.” Acts 18:8

“We know that we have come to know Him, if we obey His commands.” I John 2:3

What is the Meaning of Baptism?

1. IT ILLUSTRATES CHRIST’S BURIAL AND RESURRECTION.

“Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.” I Corinthians 15:3-4

“For when you were baptized, you were buried with Christ, and in baptism you were also raised with Christ.” Colossians 2:12

2. IT ILLUSTRATES MY LIFE AS A CHRISTIAN.

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!” II Corinthians 5:17

“By our baptism then, we were buried with Him and shared His death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead ... so also we may live a new life!” Romans 6:4

Why be Baptized by Immersion?

1. BECAUSE JESUS WAS BAPTIZED THAT WAY.

“As soon as Jesus was baptized, He went up out of the water.” Matthew 3:16

2. EVERY BAPTISM IN THE NEW TESTAMENT WAS BY IMMERSION.

(Example) “... then both Philip and the man went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water ...” Acts 8:38-39

3. THE WORD “BAPTIZE” MEANS “TO DIP UNDER WATER”.

- The Greek word, “baptize” means to immerse or dip under water.”
- It best symbolizes the burial and resurrection!

4. The founders of denominations agree:

Martin Luther ... "I would have those who are to be baptized to be entirely immersed, as the word imparts and the mystery signifies."

John Calvin ... "The word, 'baptize' signifies to immerse. It is certain that immersion was the practice of the ancient church."

John Wesley ... "Buried with Him, alludes to baptizing by immersion according to the custom of the first church."

Who Should be Baptized?

Every person who has accepted Christ should be baptized.

"Those who accepted His message were baptized ..." Acts 2:41

"Simon himself believed and was baptized ..." Acts 8:13

"But when they believed Philip as he preached the Good News ... and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women." Acts 8:12

At Freshwater, we wait until our children are old enough to believe and understand the true meaning of baptism before we baptize them. The purpose of believer's baptism is to publicly confess your personal commitment to Christ.

When Should I be Baptized?

As soon as you believe!

"Those who accepted His message were baptized ... that day!" Acts 2:41

"Then Philip began with that very passage and told him the Good News about Jesus. As they traveled along the road, they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water!" Why shouldn't I be baptized? And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him." Acts 8:35-38

As soon as you decide to receive Christ into your life, you can and should be baptized. If you wait until you are perfect, you will never feel good enough!

Can My Family be Baptized Together?

Yes! If each family member fully understands the meaning of baptism, and each one has personally placed their trust in Christ for salvation, we encourage families to be baptized at the same time. It is a wonderful expression of commitment. However, it is important to remember that baptism is a personal statement of faith, not a family tradition. It is usually not wise to delay your baptism while waiting on other family members to accept Christ, particularly children. This puts an undue pressure on them, and delays your obedience.

What Should I Wear When I Am Baptized?

Something similar to a t-shirt and shorts is suggested to wear.

CAUTION: Wet clothing becomes transparent so wearing undergarments and avoiding thin shirts is recommended.

What Should I Bring?

Bring a change of clothes, a towel, a plastic bag for your wet items, and any toiletries you may need. **Interested in getting baptized?** Call the church office at 952-446-9090

Close to Christ

Is this you?

- Your faith is a significant part of your life.
- You read the Bible 3-5 times a week.
- You pray daily.
- You attend church on a regular basis.
- You serve once in a while with a ministry.
- You attend a small group

Go through One-to-One Discipleship Program

Do you have questions about Faith?

Do you want to learn more about Christianity? The Bible?

Do you want to grow spiritually?

One-to-One Discipleship is two people meeting regularly for spiritual and personal growth. The goal of One-to-One Discipleship is a transformed life that is increasingly God-Centered (Matt. 6:33), influenced by God's Word (John 8:31-32), characterized by love for God and people (Mark 12:30-31), becoming more like Jesus Christ (2 Cor. 3:18) and committed to ministry (John 13:12-17).

One-to-One is a multiplication ministry that equips Christians who will in turn be able to equip others. If you disciple three people per year, and they in turn do the same, at the end of only five years, 16,807 people would be trained in the Christian faith, actively sharing that faith with others and connected to a network of believing friends!

One-to-One Discipling is about solidifying our relationship with God and learning how to pass that on to others.

Lesson One begins with a confident committed relationship with God.

Lessons Two and Three our relationship deepens through understanding God and listening to Him consistently through His Word.

Lesson Four we learn the power of prayer.

Lesson Five we study how to walk in the power of God through the Spirit filled life.

Lesson Six we discover that we are part of the body of Christ, designed to live in close relationships with other Christians.

Lesson Seven you will begin to share your faith story and witness as a way of life.

Lesson Eight explores strategies for meeting and defeating temptation.

Lesson Nine covers being obedient to Christ.

If you are interested in being a part of this vital ministry as well as growing spiritually and personally, please call the church office at 952-446-9090.

Lead or co-lead a Small Group or another Ministry

God desires to use you, and to use what He has given you, to bless others. Allow God to work through you. If you haven't already, take the Discover How You're Wired Class at Freshwater to find out about your God-given strengths and gifts. Also, talk to John VanTassel about a Connection Coach, a program that will help place you where you can best serve at Freshwater.

"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms." 1 Peter 4:10

Tithe

Make tithing a habit. Giving 10% of your income is a step of faith and can be a difficult one to take. If you don't think you can afford to give, remember that everything you have is a gift from God. Try seeing your income as God's money, and He's allowing you to have 90% of it! Trust God and step out in faith today through tithing. Develop the habit of tithing today. You will be amazed at what God will do once you put him first in this area.

Example of tithing.

Income \$100.00

Tithe \$10.00

I live off the remaining \$90.00

Income \$10,000.00

Tithe \$1,000.00

I live off the remaining \$9,000.00

"But just as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us—see that you also excel in this grace of giving." 2 Corinthians 8:7

Giving is an act of worship and we encourage believers to give to the ministry. In order to make giving to the ministry easy and simple there are several methods available. Thank you for giving financially and for serving. Our desire is to continue to reach more people with the love of Christ.

Go to www.freshwaterchurch.org and click on 'Next Steps' - 'Online Giving' to see the different options for giving.

Meditate on Scripture/Memorize Scripture

God has provided His Word so that we can know Him, know His plan for the world, and know how to live our lives. If we're never in the Word how are we going to grow in Christ? Meditation isn't sitting on the floor cross-legged, arms out, and saying "hmm." It is focusing on God and on His Word, mulling it over in our minds, memorizing it, and applying it to our lives.

www.Youversion.com is a good site where you can personalize your daily Scripture reading.

"I have hidden Your Word in my heart that I might not sin against you." Psalm 119:11

Share your Testimony with others

You have something millions of people do not have. You have experienced the greatest gift ever given. You have experienced amazing love! Please, don't keep it to yourself.

Share your story with others. Christ is the hope for now and for all eternity. What if your story makes the difference of eternity in someone else's life? Share with others what God has done in your life.

Here are some resources for helping you to share your testimony with others.

www.5clicks.com will help you write out your testimony.

www.wayofthemaster.com has video lessons, audio lessons, and more on how to share your faith.

Fasting

Jesus fasted for forty days when he was being tempted in the wilderness, (Matthew 4, Luke 4). The apostles fasted when they were faced with important decisions like appointing elders in the church. The purpose of our fasting is to move us closer to God and to seek his will in our lives. It is a step of faith before God that says, "You sustain me, Lord. You are the giver of life." Fasting, in the Bible, is always linked with prayer. Never do we find people fasting in the Bible and just going about their normal lives. They fasted and prayed. They focused their whole beings on God.

While we don't recommend fasting for forty days, have you considered giving a day to fast and pray? Take a day and spend the whole day with God. You just might find yourself becoming more Christ-like.

"When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show men they are fasting. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to men that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you." Matthew 6:16-18

Christ-Centered

Is this you?

- Your faith is central to your life.
- You read the bible daily.
- You pray several times a day because it comes naturally.
- You attend church weekly.
- You serve on a regular basis.
- You attend a small group.
- You mentor others.

Disciple/Mentor Others

Discipling others doesn't have to be an in-depth program and it doesn't have to take hours upon hours of training. Christ taught his disciples through daily life. They followed Him and learned from Him as they went through life.

Disciple others by sharing with them what God has done in your life, and what God is teaching you now. It can be with a friend, your children, a co-worker, or a neighbor. Discipling others is about you sharing what you have already learned in order to bring others to a deeper relationship with Christ. Also, you can get involved in Freshwater's One-to-One Discipleship Program which we talked about in the previous section.

Seek Out Relationships in Which to Share the Love of Christ

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:19-20

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. If a

man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.” John 15:1-13

We are commanded to go share the love of Christ with others. We have the greatest gift ever given and we need to share it with the world. God desires that every person come to Him and know Him, and we can be a part of that. What could be better than making the difference of eternity in someone's life today?

www.wayofthemaster.com has video lessons, audio lessons, and more on how to share your faith.

Serve others

At some point in your spiritual life you change from being a consumer to serving others. This is key to spiritual growth. Some Christians always ask to be spiritually fed when the Scriptures teach us to mature in our faith and then go and teach others. If you never make this transition, you will never truly live a Christ centered life.

People who live a Christ centered life are always looking for ways to deepen and broaden their faith. They challenge themselves to study the Scriptures, mentor others, get involved, and to be the light of the world wherever they are. This is a life-long quest that you need to be on.

Wrap up

There are many ways to move along in your faith. This guide was written to give you an idea of how the progression takes place. Nobody is going to force you to take the next step; you need to take it on your own. We hope that you do because in doing so you will be living the abundant life that Jesus talks about in John 10:10. May the LORD bless you as you continue to seek Him.

TAKE THE NEXT STEP

