

Ephesians - How To Grow Closer To God

The only reliable evidence of a person's being saved is not a past experience of receiving Christ but a present life that reflects Christ.

1 John 2:3-6 - We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands. ⁴Whoever says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person. ⁵But if anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in him: ⁶Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.

Why Do Christians Fail To Grow Closer To God?

- Too much focus on information rather than transformation**
- Too much focus on experiences rather than obedience**
- Too much focus on using God rather than knowing God**

How To Grow Closer To God

In order to grow closer to God, we must understand that we have to die to ourselves.

Ephesians 4:22-32 – You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; ²³to be made new in the attitude of your minds; ²⁴and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

Galatians 2:20 - I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

What The New Self Looks Like

Ephesians 4:25-32 - Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body. ²⁶"In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, ²⁷and do not give the devil a foothold. ²⁸Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need.

²⁹ Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. ³² Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

•The new self speaks truth rather than lies

Proverbs 12:22 - The Lord detests lying lips, but he delights in people who are trustworthy.

•The new self gets angry for the right reasons

We do not get mad at people. We get mad at sinful actions done by people.

•The new self shares rather than steals

•The new self speaks kindness rather than hurting others

Psalm 19:14 - May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

Psalm 141:3 - Set a guard over my mouth, Lord; keep watch over the door of my lips.