

“I am the vine, and you are the branches. Those who remain in me and I in them, will bear much fruit; for you can do nothing without me.” John 15:5

Brief Outline

- A. We have several tools to help us grow in the life in the Spirit. It is important to choose the basic means to growth in intimacy with God, especially prayer, Scripture, study, community, the sacraments and service.
- B. We should spend time with the Lord through prayer, Scripture and study.
- C. We are called to be part of a sacramental, faith-sharing community.
- D. A Spirit-filled life includes many ways of sharing what we have found with others through service and evangelization.

Questions to Consider:

- 1. How was your experience of prayer for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit?
- 2. Have you noticed any fruit of the spirit or charisms since then.
- 3. Has prayer, reading scripture, or the Mass come alive in a new way?
- 4. How do you feel newly empowered to build up the body of Christ?

Prayer:

A Prayer For Spiritual Growth

Heavenly Father, You have called us to grow in grace, to increase our understanding of Jesus and to develop a close and intimate relationship with You. Lord, this is what I desire to do, and I pray I may come to know You more and more each day. Thank You Father for the Bible, which is written to help me understand Your Word of truth and thank You for the indwelling Holy Spirit, Who has promised to guide me in the way that I should go.

I pray that I may learn to walk in spirit and truth so that I may mature in my Christian faith – as I study the Bible and learn to live godly in Christ Jesus,

Amen

That I May be More Like Jesus

O Lord Jesus, how I thank and praise YOU for the everlasting life that You have given to me by Your wonderful grace and love. May I grow daily to be more like You, full of compassion, kindness and every good fruit. Saturate my heart with Your love so that I may love You more with every passing breath - my Jesus.

Thank you, for Your Holy Spirit Who is making me to be more like YOU Lord Jesus. I want to reflect Your grace and Your beauty in thought, word and deed. I ask that I may devote my time and heart to reflect on all You are and all You have done for me –so that You are magnified more and more in my life – so that the beauty of my Lord Jesus may be seen and reflected in me.

Amen

Study:

This week the two chapters we will read are about continuing faithfully in our life with Jesus and being changed into being like him: **John 17, Philippians 3**

Daily Words of Life

Day 1: Jesus has given you a new life through the Holy Spirit. The life of the Holy Spirit in you is not like a pool of water that you have to guard carefully or it will turn dry. It is like a flowing spring that will grow in you unless you do something to stop it up Jesus promises you:

Anyone who drinks the water that I shall



WEEK 6

Growth

give will never be thirsty again: the water that I shall give will turn into a spring inside him, welling up to eternal life. (Jn 4:14, JB)

Day 2: Your life is in Christ; it comes from Christ. If you stay firmly joined to him, it will grow and bear fruit. If you let yourself be separated from him, it will wither away. Jesus says:

I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty; for cut off from me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me is like a branch that has been thrown away—he withers. (Jn 15:5-6 JB)

Day 3: Jesus has given you a new self, a new way of life that is more spiritual, happier and better than the old. But you must actively put away your old self so that you might experience this new life. God's word urges you:

You must give up your old way of life; you must put aside your old self, which gets corrupted by following illusory desires. Your minds must be renewed by a spiritual revolution so that you can put on the new self that has been created in God's way, in the goodness and holiness of the truth. (Eph 4:22-23, JB)

Day 4: In order to keep in contact with God who is our source of life, you should pray. Jesus prayed. Although he was the son of God, although he was very busy, he knew he had to pray. You too have to pray if you wish to stay alive spiritually. Imitate Jesus.

(Jesus') reputation continued to grow, and large crowds would gather to hear him and to have their sickness cured, but he would always go off to some place where he could be alone and pray. (Lk 5:15-16, JB)

Day 5: In order to grow in the life of the Spirit, you need to know what God teaches. The Scriptures are the word of God, and they contain words of life. Read them and meditate on them faithfully and you will grow. God's word says:

From the holy scriptures you can learn the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is inspired by God and can profitably be used for teaching, for refuting error, for guiding people's lives and teaching them to be holy. (adapted from 2 Tim 3:15-17, JB)

Day 6: The Christian life is not an individualistic life. By himself, a Christian is incomplete. The gift of the Spirit led the first Christians to join together and to form a community in which they helped one another to grow. Be faithful to the Church and to meeting with the Christians who have helped you

find new life in the Spirit. Imitate the Christians on the day of Pentecost.

That very day about three thousand were added to their number. These remained faithful to the reaching of the apostles, to the brotherhood, to the breaking of bread, and to the prayers... The faithful all lived together and owned everything in common... They shared their food gladly and generously; they praised God and were looked up to by everyone. Day by day the Lord added to their community those destined to be saved. (Acts 2:41-47, JB)

Day 7: If you love other people, you will want to share with them the best thing you have—the Lord. Share what you have found with wisdom, following the leading of the Spirit. God's word says:

Be tactful with those who are not Christians and be sure that you make the best use of your time with them. Talk too them agreeably and with a flavor of wit, and try to fit your answers to the needs of each one. (Col 4:5-6, JB)

Resources:

Songs:

God of Wonders Third Day: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DIU89VB6Tm4>

King of Love: I am They: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Au3otElq6D4>

Set A Fire by Jesus Culture: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Jzqq4B8H2Q&t=41s>

Suggested Books:

- Jesus 101: God and Man by John Gresham (Liguori, 2010)
- Reading God's Word Today: A Practical Guide and Faith filled Approach to Scripture by George Martin (Our Sunday Visitor)
- Mother Teresa: Her Life, Her Works, Her Message by Jose Louis Gonzalez-Balado

Talks from the Pentecostal Renewal version of Life in the Spirit are on our website at: <https://www.stmva.org/liits.html> (Talk 6 Growth)

Helpful Passages

John 15:5, John 4:14, JB, Eph 4:22-23, JB, Lk 5:15-16, JB, 2 Tim 3:15-17, JB, Acts 2:41-47, JB, John 17, Philipians 3