

**Mom2Mom**  
**The Fruit of the Spirit**  
**Class #1 – Devotion To God APPLY**  
**TEACHER NOTES**

**Creation -> Fall -> Redemption -> Restoration-> Response**

**I. Devotion To God –**

**(Last week's teaching is in grey for context)**

Our growth is motivated out of devotion to God. We must examine our motives to make sure that our desires for growth stem from a fear of God, love for God, and a desire for God.

**A. A Life Given to God** – II Cor 5:14-15; I Peter 1:18-19 – Our love for God stems out of our thankfulness for the amazing salvation he has provided us in Christ Jesus. As a result of our thankful and grateful attitudes we live our life for God. It helps to remember that our purchase for God was very expensive. Our salvation was secured through payment more costly than gold or silver. Our salvation was secured through the “currency” of Jesus’s blood. There is no other more costly payment.

*II Cor 5:14-15 <sup>14</sup>For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died;<sup>15</sup>and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.*

*I Peter 1:18-19 <sup>18</sup>knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, <sup>19</sup>but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.*

**B. Consists of:**

**1. The Fear of God** – Jer 32:40, Acts 9:31; Rom 3:18; Phil 2:12; I Peter 1:17; Heb 10:19; Heb 12:28-29; Is 6:1-7 - A growing awe and reverence for God will result in increased devotion to Him. As we grow in the fear of the Lord, our hearts and lives will become more loyal and devoted to Him. We are acutely aware that we do not deserve to have access to such a wonderful and majestic God. As our awareness of his holiness becomes more real to us, our own sinfulness will be understood to be even more heinous and vile. As we see our own sinfulness compared to God’s holiness we will be prompted to apply his word more carefully to our lives and to be more intentional and purposeful in our application of his truth to our daily existence.

*Jer 32:40 I will make an everlasting covenant with them that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; and I will put the fear of Me in their hearts so that they will not turn away from Me.*

*Acts 9:31 So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria enjoyed peace, being built up; and going on in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it continued to increase.*

*Rom 3:9-18 <sup>9</sup>What then? Are we better than they? Not at all; for we have already charged that both Jews and Greeks are all under sin; <sup>10</sup>as it is written, “There is none righteous, not even one; <sup>11</sup>There is none who understands, There is none who seeks for God; <sup>12</sup>All have turned aside, together they have become useless; There is none who does good, There is not even one.” <sup>13</sup>“Their throat is an open grave, With their tongues they keep deceiving,” “The poison of asps is under their lips”; <sup>14</sup>“Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness”; <sup>15</sup>“Their feet are swift to shed blood, <sup>16</sup>Destruction and misery are in their paths, <sup>17</sup>And the path of peace they have not known.” <sup>18</sup>“There is no fear of God before their eyes.”*

*Phil 2:12 So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling;*

*1 Peter 1:17 If you address as Father the One who impartially judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay on earth;*

*Heb 10:19 Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus,*

*Heb 12:28-29 <sup>28</sup>Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe; <sup>29</sup>for our God is a consuming fire.*

*Is 6:1-7 In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple. <sup>2</sup>Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. <sup>3</sup>And one called out to another and said, "Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord of hosts, The whole earth is full of His glory." <sup>4</sup>And the foundations of the thresholds trembled at the voice of him who called out, while the temple was filling with smoke. <sup>5</sup>Then I said, "Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I live among a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts." <sup>6</sup>Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a burning coal in his hand, which he had taken from the altar with tongs. <sup>7</sup>He touched my mouth with it and said, "Behold, this has touched your lips; and your iniquity is taken away and your sin is forgiven."*

**2. The Love of God** – I John 4:8-10; Rom 8:31-39 – The love of God, mostly acutely seen in the sacrifice of Jesus for our salvation, endears our hearts to Him. WHILE we were still in our sin God stooped down to our level and became human so that he could sacrifice himself for our sins. As we reflect on the cost of our salvation and the willing payment by Jesus, our amazement and humble gratitude results in a thirst and hunger which is only satisfied by deep relationship with God. A deep and satisfying relationship with God transforms our lives toward godliness.

*I John 4:8-10 <sup>8</sup>The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup>By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. <sup>10</sup>In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*

*Rom 8:31-39 <sup>31</sup>What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? <sup>32</sup>He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things? <sup>33</sup>Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies; <sup>34</sup>who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was [a]raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. <sup>35</sup>Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? <sup>36</sup>Just as it is written, "For Your sake we are being put to death all day long; We were considered as sheep to be slaughtered." <sup>37</sup>But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. <sup>38</sup>For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup>nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

**a. As seen in the Gospel!** (I John 4:9-10) – the Love of God is most deeply experienced in the gospel. (Teacher, use "The Gospel Primer" by Milton Vincent for a deeper understanding of this point. Please creatively explain the gospel in a few moments. See the Easter lesson for more information about how to share the Gospel.)

CREATION -> FALL -> **REDEMPTION** -> RESTORATION

*1 John 4:9-10<sup>9</sup>By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. <sup>10</sup>In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*

*Luke 4:47 "I tell you, her sins—and they are many—have been forgiven, so she has shown me much love. But a person who is forgiven little shows only little love."*

**b. As seen in the life of Christ** (Rom 5:8; 2 Cor 5:21; Eph 4:32) – Jesus most perfectly embodied love as he willingly laid down his life for the salvation of humans in order to complete the plans of God the Father.

*Rom 5:8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

*2 Cor 5:21 He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

*Eph 4:32 Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.*

**3. A Desire for God** – Psalm 42:1-2; Psalm 27:4; Psalm 63:1-3; Phil 3:10; Is 26:9 – A deepening understanding of the Fear of God and a more personal reflection of the love of God will result in a thirst and hunger for God which can only be satisfied by meaningful experiences with God through the Scriptures and times in prayer. Our thirst for God is primal, and our desire for meaningful time with God drives us to the Scripture and causes us to look forward to our eternity with God in heaven.

*Psalm 42:1-2 As the deer pants for the water brooks, So my soul pants for You, O God. <sup>2</sup>My soul thirsts for God, for the living God; When shall I come and appear before God?*

*Psalm 27:4 One thing I have asked from the Lord, that I shall seek: That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, To behold the beauty of the Lord And to meditate in His temple.*

*Psalm 63:1-3 O God, You are my God; I shall seek You earnestly; My soul thirsts for You, my flesh yearns for You, In a dry and weary land where there is no water. <sup>2</sup>Thus I have seen You in the sanctuary, To see Your power and Your glory. <sup>3</sup>Because Your lovingkindness is better than life, My lips will praise You.*

*Phil 3:10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death;*

*Is 26:9 At night my soul longs for You, Indeed, my spirit within me seeks You diligently; For when the earth experiences Your judgments The inhabitants of the world learn righteousness.*

### **((click))How do you apply this in your life?**

Examples of possible applications:

- Sometimes it's possible that my life is given to a lot of things... work, hobbies, relaxing, working out, building an image, family....but not really starting out by being given to God. If I find that my life is given to a lot of other things, I should take some time to study salvation to make sure I understand it well. The more I understand my salvation the more I will grow in gratitude for it.
  - [Gospel Primer Booklet - Faith Resources \(faithlafayette.org\)](http://faithlafayette.org)
- My personal devotion to God consists of the fear of God, my love for God, and a desire for God.
  - It is important to have an accurate understanding of what **Fearing God** actually means. It is different than being afraid of God, and it is more like being very acutely aware of God's power, majesty, holiness, etc. The more I know who God really is the more I will realize I am NOT like him in many ways.

- [Joy of Fearing God - Faith Resources \(faithlafayette.org\)](http://faithlafayette.org)
- [Attributes of God - Faith Resources \(faithlafayette.org\)](http://faithlafayette.org)
- [Knowing God - Faith Resources \(faithlafayette.org\)](http://faithlafayette.org)
- [God's Attributes - Faith Resources \(faithlafayette.org\)](http://faithlafayette.org)
- It is important for me to have a deep understanding of the **Love of God**. We believe that God first had a desire to have objects upon which to pour out his love for ever and ever and THEN created the world and everything in it so that he could do that. Too often I think of God as holy and detached and not tender and caring. His loving kind faithfulness (Hesed) is the core of who he is.
  - [Inexpressible: Hesed and the Mystery of God's Lovingkindness: Card, Michael: 9780830845491: Amazon.com: Books](https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0009780830845491)
  - [The Hesed Love of God | Faith Ministries Resources \(faithlafayette.org\)](http://faithlafayette.org) Joyful Journey Podcast
  - [God's Love - Faith Resources \(faithlafayette.org\)](http://faithlafayette.org)
  - [Because He Loves Me - Faith Resources \(faithlafayette.org\)](http://faithlafayette.org)
- It is important for me to desire God. The more I see who God is and understand his love accurately I will deeply desire more. I am supposed to hunger and thirst for God like I hunger for chocolate when I'm hormonal, for water after a workout, and for potato chips when I'm stressed. I am supposed to crave God. The more I know about God the more I will crave him.
  - [Desiring God - Faith Resources \(faithlafayette.org\)](http://faithlafayette.org)
  - [Enjoying God - Faith Resources \(faithlafayette.org\)](http://faithlafayette.org)
  - [Caught Off Guard - Faith Resources \(faithlafayette.org\)](http://faithlafayette.org)

### **((click))How do you help your family apply this?**

Examples of possible applications:

- Sometimes I spend too much of my parenting energy talking about how my children should obey God and not enough time helping them see how much God loves them, created them just to receive his love, and wants them to love him back.
  - **Romans 8:31-39** is a great passage to use to help my kids understand how deep the love of God is for them.
  - [\(377\) Northview Kids - LOVE COME DOWN - YouTube](#)
- I need to help my children understand who God really is and what he is like if they will think rightly about him.
  - [New City Catechism - Faith Resources \(faithlafayette.org\)](http://faithlafayette.org)
  - [The Ology - Faith Resources \(faithlafayette.org\)](http://faithlafayette.org)
  - [God Knows My Name eBook - Faith Resources \(faithlafayette.org\)](http://faithlafayette.org)
  - [\(377\) ONLY A HOLY GOD - YouTube](#)
- I need to be really careful to never paint God as someone my kids should "just try to keep happy." Sometimes when we use passages like **2 Corinthians 5:9** pulled out of its context the end result is our kids thinking that God is just a bully up in heaven who we must keep pleased. Be sure to present "pleasing God" in the context of pleasing God by loving him back by obeying his word.

### **How does the way you apply this change across ages and stages of life?**

Examples of possible applications:

- **Baby** - I can love my baby in a way that demonstrates the love of God. My reverence (fear) of God will encourage me to take good care of my baby.
- **Toddler** - I can encourage my toddler to obey me because he loves me. It is appropriate for babies and toddlers to be taught the expectation to obey. That is one of the things that leads your child to be aware of their sin, their need for a Savior, and a willingness to place their faith in him for his help.
- **Early Elementary** - I can model my own devotion to God by verbally affirming that I am really devoted to God and backing that up with actions of devotion. As they ask follow-up questions I can tie my devotion to God to his love for me and my fear of him because of his excellent character and care. If I asked my kids “Who does mommy love the very most for her whole life?” I hope they will automatically answer “Mommy loves God most out of everyone in her whole life!”
- **Upper Elementary** - I can help my upper elementary kids tie their right choices to their own devotion to God. I can weave an understanding and explanation of the gospel into all of life’s choices. I am the person most responsible to teach my children the gospel and lead them in spiritual growth. The church and possibly youth group or Christian school may be one part of their overall spiritual education, but the responsibility for their spiritual status and growth belongs to the parents.
  - [Leading Your Child to Christ - Faith Resources \(faithlafayette.org\)](http://faithlafayette.org)
- **Junior High School** - I can help my Jr Hi kids see how their love for God and devotion to him will help them to love others sacrificially at a time when most kids are very self-centered.
- **High School** - I can teach my high school kids to grow their own devotion to God as their chief priority in life. I can encourage their continued involvement in youth group, bible studies, and mentoring or counseling if needed.
- **College** - I can encourage my college age children to be more devoted to God than any other life pursuit... career, family, friends, hobbies, adventures.
- **Adult children** - I can encourage my adult children to continue learning about God as they go into adulthood and help them imagine ways their devotion to God will impact the way they function in their jobs and friendships. Anytime my children are devoted to anything more than God I should pray about my observations and consider lovingly intervening with my observations in a way that is designed to challenge their continued growth.

## II. Growth As A Believer

### A. Why Grow?

So why should we care about growing? Is it enough to enjoy our salvation but just go on being who we are? We can see in Scripture that growth in Christ is commanded.

1. **Commanded** (2 Peter 3:18) – Spiritual growth is commanded for all Christians. We are instructed to grow to become more and more like Jesus, the person who pleases God the most (Matt 3:17).

*2 Peter 3:18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity*

2. **Expected** (Eph 4:15; II Cor 3:18) – As we read the Scripture, we can see that it is the expectation that the longer we are believers, the more mature we are becoming. As we spend time with Christ, we are learning to become like him.

*Eph 4:15 but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ,*

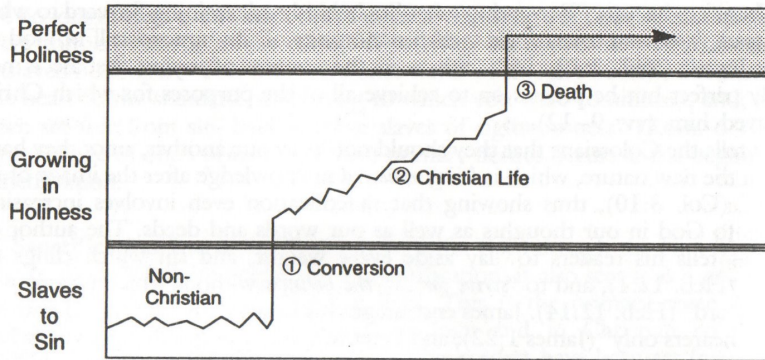
*II Cor 3:18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.*

**3. To enjoy maturity** (I Peter 2:1-3)

*2 Peter 2:1-3 Therefore, putting aside all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander, <sup>2</sup>like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation, <sup>3</sup>if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord.*

**B. How To Grow:**

1. **Progressive** (Phil 3:12, Phil 4:9; I Tim 4:7; Heb 5:12-14; Heb 12:11) Scripture tells us that our spiritual growth should be gradual and progressive, never expecting immediate sanctification but rather daily investing in more and more personal holiness.



**THE PROCESS OF SANCTIFICATION**  
*Figure 38.1*

credit (sanctification chart from Wayne Grudem)

*Phil 3:12 Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus.*

*Phil 4:9 The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.*

*I Tim 4:7 But have nothing to do with worldly fables fit only for old women. On the other hand, discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness;*

*Heb 5:12-14 <sup>12</sup>For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food. <sup>13</sup>For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an infant. <sup>14</sup>But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.*

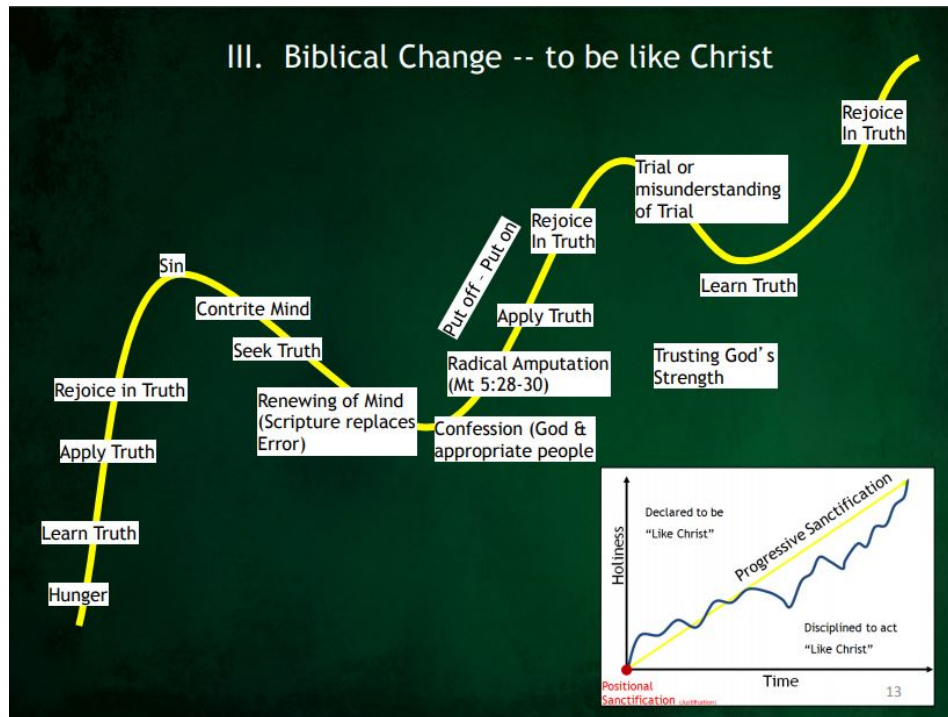
*Heb 12:11 All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.*

2. **Correctly Motivated** Luke 10:27-28; I Cor 10:31 – Scripture says that our growth should be motivated out of our Love for God and a desire for him to be glorified.

*Luke 10:27-28 <sup>27</sup>And he answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.” <sup>28</sup>And He said to him, “You have answered correctly; do this and you will live.”*

*I Cor 10:31 Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.*

3. **Procedurally** – Eph 4:22-24; Gal 5:19-23 – The Scriptures instruct us to follow Biblical methods of growth, which include putting off unrighteousness, renewing our minds with God’s word to be reeducated, and put on the attitudes, thoughts, and behaviors of righteousness.



(a further explanation of what is happening within progressive sanctification. credit [Bible Charts: The Doctrine of Progressive Sanctification \(biblechartsbyjerry.blogspot.com\)](http://Bible Charts: The Doctrine of Progressive Sanctification (biblechartsbyjerry.blogspot.com)))

*Eph 4:22-24* <sup>22</sup>that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, <sup>23</sup>and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, <sup>24</sup>and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.

*Gal 5:19-23* <sup>19</sup>Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, <sup>20</sup>idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, <sup>21</sup>envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. <sup>22</sup>But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup>gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

**a. Put Off – the acts of the flesh** (Gal 5:19-21) – It is important as we continue to study the Fruit of the Spirit in this study to notice that the Fruit of the Spirit that we will be looking at in future weeks are the growth we will be putting on. But all of that fruit is preceded by the evidences of unrighteousness that we should first be putting off. It is important to understand that many of the attitudes and actions of our culture are in direct violation of God’s commands for believers.

*Gal 5:19-21* <sup>19</sup>Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, <sup>20</sup>idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, <sup>21</sup>envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

**b. Renew Your Mind** Eph 4:23 – We will not be able to approach growth in a simply behavioristic way. In order to experience real and lasting growth our minds must be changed. Our thinking must become in accordance with God’s word on many different topics. Our behavior will follow our changed thinking. Scripture says that our actions flow from our heart. If

we would like our actions to be consistent with Scripture our minds and hearts must be consistent with Scripture.

*Eph 4:23 and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind,*

**c. Put On – the fruit of the Spirit** (Gal 5:22-23) – We will be studying these in depth this series. While the fruit of the Spirit is evidence that the Holy Spirit is working in us, we are commanded to participate with his work in our lives.

*Gal 5:22-23* <sup>22</sup>*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,* <sup>23</sup>*gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.*

**4. Connected To the Vine** – John 15 1:11 – One vital truth to be aware of is that none of our attempts at growth can be pursued without our strength and empowerment coming from our relationship with God. Our power for change is dependent upon an abiding relationship with Christ.

*John 15:1-11* <sup>1</sup>*“I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. <sup>2</sup>Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me. <sup>5</sup>I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire and they are burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples. <sup>9</sup>Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love. <sup>10</sup>If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love. <sup>11</sup>These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full.*

**5. Balanced and not dependent upon personality** – 2 Peter 1:3-8; 2 Tim 3:16-17 – We will find that some of the fruit of the Spirit may come more easily for our personality. However, we must not be quick to dismiss the need to grow even deeper in areas that God has already gifted us in. We must also be sure to put focus on the areas that we are not naturally gifted in. Just because growth in a certain area is not a natural occurrence does not mean we have the freedom to neglect it. Extra efforts to participate with the Holy Spirit in those areas will be necessary.

*2 Peter 1:3-8* <sup>3</sup>*seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. <sup>4</sup>For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust. <sup>5</sup>Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge, <sup>6</sup>and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness, <sup>7</sup>and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love. <sup>8</sup>For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

*2 Tim 3:16-17* <sup>16</sup>*as also in all his letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction. <sup>17</sup>You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard so that you are not carried away by the error of unprincipled men and fall from your own steadfastness,*

## C. How Not To Grow

**1. Not a self-centered pursuit to know your spiritual gifts** Rom 12:6-8; I Cor 12:4-11; I Cor 12:28– Sometimes we pursue growth as a means of “self-centeredly” identifying our spiritual gifts in order to place our identity in the thing that we are good at doing. We must remember that God designed our



spiritual growth to benefit other believers and to be a blessing to God, not to give us a reason to be noticed.

*Rom 12:6-8* <sup>6</sup>Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to exercise them accordingly: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith; <sup>7</sup>if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching; <sup>8</sup>or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

*I Cor 12:4-11* <sup>4</sup>Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. <sup>5</sup>And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. <sup>6</sup>There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons. <sup>7</sup>But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. <sup>8</sup>For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit; <sup>9</sup>to another faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, <sup>10</sup>and to another the effecting of miracles, and to another prophecy, and to another the distinguishing of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of tongues. <sup>11</sup>But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.

*I Cor 12:28* And God has appointed in the church, first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, various kinds of tongues.

**2. Not motivated out of prideful, selfish ambition** Eph 4:15-16; Phil 2:3; James 3:16 – Spiritual growth should result in unity and blessing for the church. Spiritual growth should place us in a position to love and serve others even more deeply.

*Eph 4:15-16* <sup>15</sup>but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, <sup>16</sup>from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

*Phil 2:3* Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves;

*James 3:16* For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing.

**3. Not going to Extremes** – I Tim 4:7 – We may find ourselves tempted to make spiritual growth an extreme endeavor--all my responsibility or all God's. It is important to pursue growth in a disciplined fashion, being persistent and intentional. We should also expect to have to *participate with* the Holy Spirit in the growth process; not expecting that growth will happen magically or accidentally or without expending the energy God gives us.

*I Tim 4:7* <sup>7</sup> But have nothing to do with worldly fables fit only for old women. On the other hand, discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness;

### **((click)) How do you apply this in your life?**

Examples of possible applications:

- I must expect to grow in my relationship with God. As I grow naturally there will be highs and lows, growth and regression, but I must expect that tomorrow I will love God and follow him more closely than I did yesterday. In six months I should expect to look back on today and see that I have grown substantially as I've read and applied God's Word in my life.
  - **Ephesians 4:22-24** is a great passage to memorize.
  - **Ephesians 4:15** written on a 3 x 5 card and placed in a prominent place will help me remember that I'm supposed to be growing.
- I should not make allowances for sin I see in myself and excuse them as simply components of my personality. "I'm just a sarcastic person." "I can't help but scream at the idiots driving all around me." "If only I was a more naturally motivated person."

- In cases where I see that I need to grow but I don't know how, I can use the resources around me for further help and accountability:
  - My Mom2Mom Mentor Mom relationships
  - [Women's Mentoring and Bible Studies | Faith Church of Lafayette, IN \(faithlafayette.org\)](http://faithlafayette.org)
  - [Do You Need Counseling? | Faith Biblical Counseling Ministries \(faithlafayette.org\)](http://faithlafayette.org)

### **((click)) How do you help your family apply this?**

Examples of possible applications:

- I can expect that my family needs to grow in many ways and not be frustrated when that is apparent. I can prepare myself to know how to help them by understanding the heart.
  - [Heart of Change, Session 1 | Faith Ministries Resources \(faithlafayette.org\)](http://faithlafayette.org)
- I can make plans to help my children grow through the use of a Behavior Contract or Development Plan. If we need help as parents, we can seek counseling from our pastor.
  - [How to Make a Behavior Contract](#)
- I can expect my children to make mistakes as they grow, because growth is progressive not instantaneous. When they make mistakes I can teach them to confess and repent.
  - [\(377\) Northview Kids - NOTHING BUT THE BLOOD - YouTube](#)
- I can make sure that the standard to which all of the members are comparing themselves is Jesus Christ, the one who pleases God perfectly, instead of hurtfully comparing my kids or husband to other humans.

### **How does the way you apply this change across ages and stages of life?**

Examples of possible applications:

- **Baby** - I can celebrate each milestone my baby reaches because he/she is growing!
- **Toddler** - I can help my toddler see that some behaviors and attitudes are wrong and should be put off. I should never encourage my toddler to do naughty things because they are cute. That sends conflicting messages.
- **Early Elementary** - I can require my children to memorize important scripture passages that are pertinent to their situation, so their mind is renewed with God's word.
- **Upper Elementary** - I can help my upper elementary be balanced in the activity choices they make so they are never too busy to stay connected to the vine through church attendance, youth group, and personal Bible study. It's really easy to feel like every activity is important, but some things like staying connected to the Scripture are so important it takes priority over everything else. Learning to help your kids stay connected to Scripture and God at this age is setting a precedent for next steps.
- **Junior High School** - I can help my Jr Hi kids to know that we never excuse unbiblical behavior as a personality trait. Lying is always wrong whether it's easy for us or not. Being kind is always right, even when we're on our period or feeling hangry.
- **High School** - I can teach my high school kids that gospel changes EVERYTHING about who they are and how they function. Gospel centered teens are the expectation, not the exception.
  - [This Changes Everything - Faith Resources \(faithlafayette.org\)](http://faithlafayette.org)
- **College** - I can expect my college age children to continue growing spiritually while they are also growing in their education and career. I should expect to have lots of different things to need to continue talking about with them as they learn things that may not be biblical but are required for their degree.
  - [Surviving Religion 101 - Faith Resources \(faithlafayette.org\)](http://faithlafayette.org)

- **Adult children** - I can encourage my adult children to grow by kindly and lovingly pointing out habits of sin if necessary. Sometimes we're tempted to think that once they're 18 they're not our "responsibility" to parent anymore, but we are still their brother and sister in Christ and should care about their holiness.

### **Optional Memory Verse**

*John 15:4* <sup>4</sup>Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.

### **((click)) Table Discussion Questions** (\*\* is also a Large Group Discussion Question)

1. \*\* How would you like to grow in personal application of Devotion to God?
2. How do you think you might need to help your family grow in application of this topic?
3. \*\* How do you see the application of this topic affecting your children at their current age/stage?

### **((click)) Reading Discussion Questions**

Discuss the questions on [Worksheet #1](#), which was assigned last week. The [passage discussed](#) as well as a commentary on the passage was uploaded to the [www.faithlafayette.org/mom2mommember](http://www.faithlafayette.org/mom2mommember) website.

### **Table Time Prayer Request Question:**

1. What is one thing you'd like to personally apply more deeply from the last two weeks of Mom2Mom?
2. What is one way you'd like to see your family growing in application of this topic?

### **((click)) Large Group Discussion Question**

Table time discussion questions 1 and 3 will be used for large group discussion.