



NORTH RIDGE
COMMUNITY CHURCH
"Connecting in Community with Jesus and Each Other"

Spiritual Growth Assessment Tool



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Spiritual Growth Assessment Process

Your spiritual journey as a follower of Christ began the moment you admitted personal sin and placed your trust in Christ as Savior and Lord. From that point, until death or the return of Christ, your life's call is to grow in Christlikeness.

Jesus summarizes the disciple's call in **Mark 8:34**, *"If any of you wants to be My follower, you must turn from your selfish ways, take up your cross, and follow Me"* (NLT).

Accomplishing such a challenging assignment requires growing in your understanding of what it means to be a Christian, expanding your personal knowledge of biblical truth, and applying daily what you learn. Through the presence of His indwelling Spirit, God enables you to know, obey, and serve Him.

God expects His children to grow spiritually and His Word encourages personal examination as an element of growth.

- *"Let us search out and examine our ways..."* **Lamentations 3:40**
- *"Now, the Lord of Hosts says this: 'Think carefully about your ways.'"* **Haggai 1:5**
- *"Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my concerns. See if there is any offensive way in me; lead me in the everlasting way."* **Psalms 139:23-24**
- *"But each person should examine his own work, and then he will have a reason for boasting in himself alone, and not in respect to someone else."* **Galatians 6:4**
- *"Pay careful attention, then, to how you walk—not as unwise people, but as wise."* **Ephesians 5:15**

This assessment process can help you complete an examination and careful search of your spiritual growth. Follow these steps to walk through the process.

1. Complete the **Spiritual Growth Assessment** on page 3-4.
The assessment helps you think carefully about your spiritual development related to six specific spiritual disciplines; abiding in Christ, living in the Word, praying in faith, fellowshiping with believers, witnessing to the world, ministering to others. Before completing your responses, ask the Lord to guide your evaluation. Since most of these statements require a subjective response, His guidance is the key to an accurate appraisal. Also, resist the urge to compare scores with others. Self-condemnation or pride could result from such comparisons. Trust God to help you grow spiritually by revealing heart issues and empowering you to take action.
2. Complete the **Discipleship Graph** on page 5.
3. Reflect on the results, and ask God to help you discern what you need to see in them.

As you complete this assessment process the temptation might be to think your efforts are central to growing spiritually. **Remember, becoming like Christ centers on His work in us and not our work for Him. God desires heart change over religious actions.** Without question, God does the revealing, the renewing, the empowering, and the recreating. Your part as His disciple is to do the yielding, the submitting, and the obeying.

Spiritual Growth Assessment

As you complete the assessment, avoid rushing. Listen for God's voice to encourage and challenge you. Consider this experience as one-on-one time with Him. Be intentional in your growth towards Christlikeness. Use the scale below to respond to each statement.

Never - 1 Seldom - 2 Occasionally - 3 Frequent - 4 Always - 5

SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES	RESPONSE
ABIDE IN CHRIST	
1. I practice a regular quiet time and look forward to that time with Christ.	
2. When making choices, I seek Christ's guidance first.	
3. My relationship with Christ is motivated more by love than duty or fear.	
4. I experience life change as a result of my worship experiences.	
5. When God makes me aware of His specific will in an area of my life, I follow His leading.	
6. I believe Christ provides the only way for a relationship with God.	
7. My actions demonstrate a desire to build God's kingdom rather than my own.	
8. Peace, contentment, and joy characterize my life rather than worry and anxiety.	
9. I trust Christ to help me through any problem or crisis I face.	
10. I remain confident of God's love and provision during difficult times.	
Abide in Christ Total	
LIVE IN THE WORD	
1. I regularly read and study my Bible.	
2. I believe the Bible is God's Word and provides His instructions for life.	
3. I evaluate cultural ideas and lifestyles by biblical standards.	
4. I can answer questions about life and faith from a biblical perspective.	
5. I replace impure or inappropriate thoughts with God's truth.	
6. I demonstrate honesty in my actions and conversation.	
7. When the Bible exposes an area of my life needing change, I respond to make things right.	
8. Generally, my public and private self are the same	
9. I use the Bible as the guide for the way I think and act.	
10. I study the Bible for the purpose of discovering truth for daily living.	
Live By God's Word Total	
PRAY IN FAITH	
1. My prayers focus on discovering God's will more than expressing my needs.	
2. I trust God to answer when I pray and wait patiently on His timing.	
3. My prayers include thanksgiving, praise, confession, and requests.	
4. I expect to grow in my prayer life and intentionally seek help to improve.	
5. I spend as much time listening to God as talking to Him.	
6. I pray because I am aware of my complete dependence on God for everything in my life.	
7. Regular participation in group prayer characterizes my prayer life.	
8. I maintain an attitude of prayer throughout each day.	
9. I believe my prayers impact my life and the lives of others.	
10. I engage in a daily prayer time.	
Pray In Faith Total	

FELLOWSHIP WITH BELIEVERS	
1. I forgive others when their actions harm me.	
2. I admit my errors in relationships and humbly seek forgiveness from the one I've hurt.	
3. I allow other Christians to hold me accountable for spiritual growth.	
4. I seek to live in harmony with other members of my family.	
5. I place the interest of others above my self-interest.	
6. I am gentle and kind in my interactions with others.	
7. I encourage and listen to feedback from others to help me discover areas for relationship growth.	
8. I show patience in my relationships with family and friends.	
9. I encourage others by pointing out their strengths rather than criticizing their weaknesses.	
10. My time commitments demonstrate that I value relationships over work/career/hobbies.	
Build Godly Relationships Total	
WITNESS TO THE WORLD	
1. I share my faith in Christ with non-believers.	
2. I regularly pray for non-believers I know.	
3. I make my faith known to my neighbors and/or fellow employees.	
4. I intentionally maintain relationships with non-believers in order to share my testimony.	
5. When confronted about my faith, I remain consistent and firm in my testimony.	
6. I help others understand how to effectively share a personal testimony.	
7. I make sure the people I witness to get the follow-up and support needed to grow in Christ.	
8. I encourage my church and friends to support mission efforts.	
9. I am prepared to share my testimony at any time.	
10. My actions demonstrate a belief in and commitment to the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20).	
Witness To The World Total	
MINISTER TO OTHERS	
1. I understand my spiritual gifts and use those gifts to serve others.	
2. I serve others expecting nothing in return.	
3. I sacrificially contribute my finances to help others in my church and community.	
4. I go out of my way to show love to people I meet.	
5. Meeting the needs of others provides a sense of purpose in my life.	
6. I share biblical truth with those I serve as God gives opportunity.	
7. I act as if other's needs are as important as my own.	
8. I expect God to use me every day in His kingdom work.	
9. I regularly contribute time to a ministry at my church.	
10. I help others identify ministry gifts and become involved in ministry.	
Minister To Others Total	

Step Three: Reflect on the assessment by asking yourself these questions:

1. Which areas have the most shading? At this point in your spiritual journey, you see these as the strongest elements of your spiritual growth. List below one benefit these strengths bring to
 - a. You personally:
 - b. Your family:
 - c. Your church:
 - d. Your community:

2. Which areas have the least shading? At this point in your spiritual journey you see these as the elements needing the most improvement. List below one reward growth in these disciplines would bring to:
 - a. You personally:
 - b. Your family:
 - c. Your church:
 - d. Your community:

Recommended Actions for Spiritual Growth Guide

The following actions can help you intentionally create a plan to grow spiritually. See these as simply suggestions to get you started rather than as a list of the only possibilities. Additionally, please don't view these as checklist items to be completed in any certain sequence to reach the finish line. Trust God to guide you in your choices. The key to growth will be His work in you as you intentionally seek His kingdom first.

Abide in Christ

1. Attend a corporate worship experience weekly.
2. Set aside a specific time and location for a regular quiet time.
3. Establish a practice of worship preparation through prayer and confession.
4. Learn about biblical fasting.
5. Practice fasting as the Lord directs.
6. Learn about your identity in Christ.
7. Regularly thank God and give Him praise in all situations.
8. Make a list of things that hinder your spiritual growth and seek God's help to remove those hindrances.

Live in the Word

1. Memorize one Scripture verse each week.
2. Memorize passages of Scripture.
3. Take notes from the pastor's message and other group experiences each week. Revisit those notes during the week, evaluate how the study applies to your life.
4. Establish a regular time for personal Bible study. Take notes from the study and evaluate how the biblical truth applies to your life.
5. Use commentaries and other study resources to enrich Bible study. (Available at the church office)
6. Engage with the Bible reading plan available on the church website (www.northridgecc.com). Discover one action required and do it. Meditate on the character of God in each chapter.
7. While reading the Bible, practice the ACTS reading method (Adoration/Confession/Thanksgiving/Submission)
8. Participate in a "Story Thru the Bible" group
9. Lead a "Story Thru the Bible" group

Pray in Faith

1. Participate in the Prayer Force
2. Enlist a prayer partner and meet regularly for prayer.
3. Journal your prayers and record God's answers.
4. Lead a study related to praying in faith.
5. Pray each day.

Fellowship with Believers

1. Ask family members to identify ways you can improve your relationships with each one.
2. Ask friends to identify ways you can improve your relationships with each one.
3. Make a list of people who have hurt you and ask God for help to forgive them.
4. Participate in “Story Thru the Bible” group to build relationships with other believers.
5. Complete an individual study related to building godly relationships in your marriage.
6. Attend a retreat or workshop on marriage.
7. Lead a small group study related to building godly relationships with others.

Witness to the World

1. Write your testimony and practice sharing it with another believer.
2. Secure several gospel tracts and distribute them as the Lord leads.
3. Learn to share your testimony without using printed support.
4. Make a list of non-believers you know and begin praying regularly for their salvation.
5. Begin building relationships with the non-believers on your street.
6. Begin building relationships with non-believers at work.
7. Invite an unchurched friend to worship
8. Include a specific missions focus in your prayers.
9. Share your testimony as God provides the opportunity.
10. Participate in an evangelistic missions experience.
11. With your accountability partner list places you visit in a normal week. Brainstorm creative ways of witnessing to the people you regularly see at these places.

Minister to Others

1. Complete a SHAPE form to discover your God given design for ministry.
(Available at the resource table)
2. Volunteer for a ministry in your church where you can use your spiritual gifts, interests, and natural abilities.
3. Send encouragement notes to your church staff.
4. Visit one homebound person each week.
5. Volunteer to baby sit for a family or single parent in your church to give them a night out each month.
6. Volunteer to serve meals at a local shelter or to people in the church family.
7. Volunteer to tutor students or help in a classroom at a local school.
8. Ask a member of your church staff to help you discover ways to minister to people on your street. For example, hold a small group meeting in your home quarterly to discuss topics such as marriage and parenting.

Cultural Christian vs. Disciple of Jesus

Faith is a living thing. It is an ongoing dynamic: a responsive interaction between the disciple and the Lord. Faith follows Jesus as our grace-giver and King. True faith not only trusts, it also obeys. Jesus is our Lord, our King who is—at this present moment—ruling and reigning at the right hand of the Father.

Everything comes from Him and exists by His power, and is intended for His glory. Jesus is to be followed, obeyed and treasured above all else. No other way is worthy of Him.

Misunderstanding the gospel, and what Jesus calls us to, can lead to a phenomenon we're calling cultural Christianity—a counterfeit, watered-down and powerless version of Christianity. True faith leads to discipleship. The following list of comparisons demonstrates what we mean. Please don't view these things as comprehensive and fully conclusive, but rather a tool that begins the process of self examination and prayer. It may also be beneficial to ask a trusted friend or family member to observe you in these areas to provide perspective.

Cultural Christian

- “I believe in Jesus”
- “I pray through Jesus”
- “I affirm Jesus general saving role”
- “I maintain a safe distance from Jesus”
- “I like Jesus”
- “I ask Jesus to fulfill my agenda”

Disciple of Jesus

- “I truly trust and follow Jesus”
- “I surrender to Jesus”
- “I participate in Jesus' mission”
- “ I get as close to Jesus as I can”
- “I am changed by Jesus”
- “I am willing to throw myself into Jesus' mission”

It's our prayer here at North Ridge Community Church that through this self assessment, along with intentional relationships to hold you accountable to growth, that you may draw closer and closer to Jesus Christ every day. It's our prayer that your life may be transformed by the work of Holy Spirit.

Spiritual Growth Plan

Date Started _____

I. Complete this plan, and post it somewhere in which you'll engage it everyday. Connect with a spiritual coach (contact NRCC staff to help facilitate) who will agree to do the following:

1. Meet with me initially to overview my assessment and pray with me about this plan.
2. Meet with me at least once each month to discuss my progress on this plan.
3. Affirm my successes and challenge me to stay focused on achieving each part of the plan.
4. Pray regularly for me.
5. My Spiritual Coach will be _____

II. Decide on actions for spiritual growth.

- On the blanks below, write in the time of the year for your spiritual growth commitment followed by the particular additional disciple or study you will do to grow in your faith.
- Use the previous pages to determine actions. For example, looking at areas of less shading, what is the next step for your growth in that area? (knowing more about what God expects, building skills in this discipline, just doing it, or joining a group that does this discipline).
- Next, consider the areas of more shading. What is the next step for your growth in those areas? (leading others in knowing this discipline, leading others in doing this discipline, or building consistency in doing this discipline)

1. _____ During these months I will focus on the discipline of _____ and improve my understanding God's standard through the individual or group study of the following material: _____

2. _____ During these months I will focus on the discipline of _____ and improve my understanding God's standard through the individual or group study of the following material: _____