

[pg83] It is impossible to _____ the health of a local church member from the _____ of its members. And it's impossible to divide the _____ of a church member from his or her spiritual growth in _____.

Identify the important statements regarding the two sentences:

1. The health of the local church largely depends on the health of its members
 - a. healthy church members = _____ local church
 - b. unhealthy church members = unhealthy or _____ church

2. The health of the local church members is totally _____ on his/her spiritual growth in discipleship

Condition of the Seven Churches in Book of Revelation			Reason for current condition
Ephesus	2:1 – 5	Healthy / Sick	
Smyrna	2: 8 – 11	Healthy / Sick	
Pergamum	2: 12 – 16	Healthy / Sick	
Thyatira	2: 18 – 23	Healthy / Sick	
Sardis	3: 1 – 3	Healthy / Sick	
Philadelphia	3: 7 – 15	Healthy / Sick	
Laodicea	3: 14 – 18	Healthy / Sick	

I. When Christians Do Not Grow

...it may be that the most _____ problem facing churches and Christians is the lack of _____ spiritual growth and progress in _____.

Two reasons Christians don't grow (according to Thabiti)

1. _____ plateau or spiritual rut
2. _____ spiritual plateau or rut

Temporary plateaus or ruts are normal **Psalm 42:1-4**

Thabiti provides two solutions to temporary plateaus or ruts:

1. Change of _____
2. Renewed _____

1 Kings 19:11-13 – learn to listen for God in a _____

[pg84] A major sign that a Christian is chronically devoid of spiritual growth:

“Advancement in the _____ and _____ of Christ, spiritual maturity and _____ towards it, are supposed to be the _____ for the Christian.”

What negative spiritual condition leads to chronic lack of spiritual growth (thabiti)?

- _____
- _____

Spiritually Awake or Sleep		
	AWAKE	ASLEEP
Focus on		
Motivated by		
Major Goal		
Attitude		
Obsession		
Results		

Sleep & Call to Awake – Isa 56:10-12; Mk 13:32-37; Rom 13:11-12; Eph 5:14-16; 1 Thes 5:1-9

Solution to spiritual sleep: Every moment of everyday we are to _____ to reach the _____.

Every day, we must understand we are on the field of _____; every day we must know we are on a _____; every day we must put on the _____!

II. Problems In Our Thinking About Growth – pg.85

“Ours is a culture that lays emphasis on the outward signs and neglects the inward reality.”

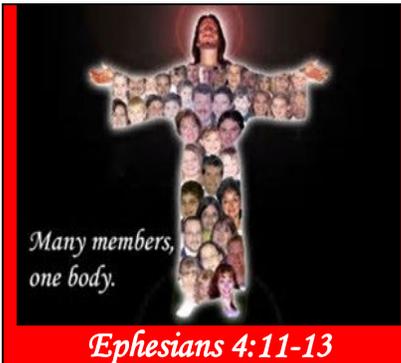
Parable at bottom of page – [Luke 18:9-14](#)

Illusions of Spiritual Growth – pg.86, 87		
	Problem	Result
Performance trap		
Judging by wrong standards		
Depending on personal effort		

III. Growth God [We] Want to See – pg.88

A healthy church member has a _____ concern for his or her own personal _____ and the growth of _____ members of his or her church.

Pervasive Concern – all surrounding; all consuming; all filling; dominates, spreads throughout



Pervasive Concern for personal growth & growth of others

Phil 3:8 – Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ.

Heb 10:24-25 – And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

The healthy church member's motive for personal growth: _____

- **2 Thess 1:11-12; John 17:1-5, 22-24**

The growth God [we] wish to see, the growth that is not finally external and superficial, is growth in _____ or _____, growth in “the stature of the fullness of Christ.”

A growing church member is someone who _____ more like Jesus in attitude of _____, _____, _____, and _____. That's what God [we] long to be and long for our churches to be.

III. Growing To Be Like Jesus – pg.89

A. Abide in Christ

The key to growth in godliness is _____ in the True Vine, who is Christ Jesus.

2-steps to abiding in Christ

1. Persevering Dependence = _____ (Matt 6:9-13; Phil 4:6-7)
2. Persevering Discipleship = _____

B. Use The Ordinary Means Of Grace – pg.90

Don't be led astray by the sensational or extraordinary.

- _____
- _____

The Ordinary Means Of Grace	Study of the Word	Prayer
	Observe Baptism	Join in Communion

C. Participate In The Local Church – pg.91

Why does Christ call the local church to assemble together?

The public assembly is meant for the _____, the _____, the _____ of the Christian.

D. Look To Jesus' Coming – pg.91

We grow in holiness by _____ on and looking _____ to the coming of Christ.

- **2 Cor 5:9-10**
- **Rom 14:12-13**

Makeup of a Growing Disciple

