3. Choose the right relationships.

Proverbs 13:20 (NIV) Walk with the wise and become wise, for a companion of fools suffers harm.

1 Corinthians 15:33 (NIV) Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character."

Relationship with a <u>local church</u>. Relationship with a <u>small group</u>. Relationship with a <u>team</u>.

4. Make a difference in the lives of others.

We are spiritual **contributors**, not spiritual **consumers**. We are the church, and **we exist for the world**.

Ephesians 2:10 (NIV) For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.



Growing Spiritually

Saturday-Sunday, May 4-5, 2024

Becoming a Disciple: How I grow after my decision to follow Jesus.

Jeremiah 29:11-13 (NLT) "For I know the plans I have for you," says the LORD. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope... If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me.

Ephesians 2:8-10 (NIV) For it is **by grace you have been saved**, through faith—and this is **not from yourselves**, it is the **gift of God—not by works**, so that no one can boast. For **we are God's handiwork**, created in Christ Jesus **to do good works**, which **God prepared in advance** for us to do.

We work serving God because of salvation, not in order to get it.

Philippians 2:12-13 (NLT) Work hard to show the results of your salvation, obeying God with deep reverence and fear. For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.

Galatians 4:19 (NLT) Oh, my dear children! I feel as if I'm going through labor pains for you again, and they will continue **until Christ is fully developed in your lives**.

I'll never **get the best** of what God has to offer until I **give God my best**.

1. Make my relationship with God public.

Acts 2:41 (NIV) Those who accepted his message were **baptized**, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

To demonstrate my changed life.

1 Peter 3:21 (The Living Bible, Paraphrased) (That, by the way, is what baptism pictures for us: In baptism **we show that we have been saved** from death and doom by the resurrection of Christ; not because our bodies are washed clean by the water but because in being baptized we are turning to God and asking him to **cleanse our hearts from sin**.)

To let the world know I belong to Jesus.

Matthew 10:32-33 (NIV) Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns me before men, I will disown him before my Father in heaven.

2. Spend time with God every day.

Psalm 5:3 (NIV) In the morning, LORD, you hear my voice; in the morning **I lay my requests before you** and **wait expectantly**.

5 minutes reading God's Word5 minutes in Worship5 minutes in Prayer

James 1:22 (NKJV)

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

James 1:23 (NKJV)

For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror;

James 1:24 (NKJV)

for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately **forgets** what kind of man he was. James 1:25 (NKJV)

But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

Time with God is Life Changing.

Romans 12:2 (NKJV)

And do not be conformed to this world, but be **transformed** by the **renewing of your mind**, that **you may prove** what is that good and acceptable and perfect **will of God**.