

Battle For Growth
Part IV

Psalm 92:12-14
New Living Translation (NLT)
¹² But the godly will flourish like palm trees
and grow strong like the cedars of Lebanon.
¹³ For they are transplanted to the LORD's own
house.
They flourish in the courts of our God.
¹⁴ Even in old age they will still produce fruit;
they will remain vital and green.

We are called to:

Grow
Be planted in the house of the Lord
Bear fruit through old age
Stay fresh and green

4 Stages of Spiritual Growth:

- 1. Babyhood
- 2. Childhood
- 3. Adolescence
- 4. Adulthood

- 1. They develop a desire for spiritual food.
- 2. They aren't easily deceived; they keep the main thing, the main thing.
- 3. They speak the Word of God in everyday life.

- 4. They teach and care for others.
- 5. They can discern good and evil in their everyday life.
- 6. They know how to live free from strife and offense.

3 Characteristics of adulthood:
They govern their lives by the Word of God.
They live out of their "inward man."
They guard their hearts.

1 Peter 2:2
(GOD'S WORD Translation)

²Desire God's pure word as newborn babies desire milk. Then you will grow in your salvation.

Matthew 7:24-25
(The Message)
²⁴⁻²⁵"These words I speak to you are not incidental additions to your life, homeowner improvements to your standard of living. They are foundational words, **words to build a life on.**

James 1:5-8
New Living Translation (NLT)
5 If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking. 6 But when you ask him, be sure that your faith is in God alone. Do not waver, for a person with divided loyalty is as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is blown and tossed by the wind. 7 Such people should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. 8 Their loyalty is divided between God and the world, and they are unstable in everything they do.

Hebrews 4:1-3
(New Century Version)
1 Now, since God has left us the promise that we may enter his rest, let us be very careful so none of you will fail to enter. 2 The Good News was preached to us just as it was to them. **But the teaching they heard did not help them, because they heard it but did not accept it with faith.**

Ephesians 4:20-24
The Message (MSG)
20-24 But that's no life for you. You learned Christ! My assumption is that you have paid careful attention to him, been well instructed in the truth precisely as we have it in Jesus. Since, then, we do not have the excuse of ignorance, everything—and I do mean everything—connected with that old way of life has to go. It's rotten through and through. Get rid of it! And then take on an entirely new way of life—a God-fashioned life, a life renewed from the inside and working itself into your conduct as God accurately reproduces his character in you.

Colossians 3:9-10

New Living Translation (NLT)

⁹ Don't lie to each other, for you have stripped off your old sinful nature and all its wicked deeds. ¹⁰ Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him.

Ephesians 5:7-9

New Living Translation (NLT)

⁷ Don't participate in the things these people do. ⁸ For once you were full of darkness, but now you have light from the Lord. So live as people of light! ⁹ For this light within you produces only what is good and right and true.

Romans 12:1-2

The Message (MSG)

¹⁻² So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.

Proverbs 4:23
New Living Translation (NLT)
²³ Guard your heart above all else,
for it determines the course of
your life.

Proverbs 4:23
GOD'S WORD Translation (GW)
²³ Guard your heart more than
anything else,
because the source of your life
flows from it.

Guarding Your Heart:

- What I HEAR
- What I SEE
- What I THINK ABOUT
- What I SAY
