

OUR VISION

- **BROADCASTING**
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BROADCAST SCHEDULE

GLOBAL Thunder Bay
Sunday 9:30 am
Thursday 10:00 am

CKPR Thunder Bay
Sunday 8:30 am
Saturday 11:00 am

FAITH TV
Sunday 3:00 pm
Tuesday 3:30 pm
Bell 591, Rogers 174,
Shaw/MTS 11

Program Times are EST

CONTACT INFO

PO Box 21102
Thunder Bay ON P7A 8A7

807-344-1956
spiritalive@tbaytel.net
www.spiritalive.org

TIME TO GROW UP



JULY 2022

*"Growing in every way more and more like Christ,
who is the head of his body, the church."
(Ephesians 4:15 NLT)*

Spiritual growth is essential for every believer but it doesn't happen automatically. It takes effort to develop spiritually. Developing into a mature believer is essential in order to fulfill God's plan and purpose for our lives. The ultimate goal of spiritual growth is to become more like Christ.

WHAT IS SPIRITUAL GROWTH?

Spiritual growth is the training and development of the human spirit. In many ways, spiritual growth mirrors natural growth. When a person is first born again, the Bible calls them a "babe in Christ." Although we are born as spiritual babies, we shouldn't stay that way. Just like natural babies, we need to go through a growth process to become mature adults. In our world, we value the need to develop our physical bodies through proper diet and exercise. Also, we develop our intellect through education and study. However, most of us neglect or ignore our spiritual development. Paul exhorts his protege Timothy to "discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness (**keeping yourself spiritually fit**). For physical training is of some value, but godliness (**spiritual training**) is of value in everything and in every way, since it holds promise for the present life and for the life to come." (1 Timothy 4:7-8 AMP) This scripture tells us that we should place a higher priority on spiritual training than on our physical development. Spiritual growth is valuable both for this life and for eternity.

GROWTH CAN BE STUNTED

The Apostle Paul was a mentor to many in the early church. He recognized the importance for believers to grow up spiritually and recognized if their growth had been stunted. For example, he confronted the believers at the church of Corinth for their carnal lifestyle. "And I, brethren, could not speak to you as **spiritual people, but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ**. I fed you with milk, and not with solid food: for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able; for you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men?" (1 Corinthians 3:1-3 NKJV)

Although the Corinthians were born again, it was evident by their lifestyle that they hadn't developed spiritually. Paul called them "babes" or "carnal" (meaning flesh-ruled). He said they were acting as mere unsaved people who were spiritually undeveloped. Likewise, believers in the Hebrew church were challenged to grow up spiritually. Paul expected them to be at a higher level of maturity, being able to teach others. Instead, they still needed to feed on milk, indicating that their growth was stagnated at a "baby stage" of development. "You have been believers so long now that you ought to be teaching others. Instead, you need someone to teach you again the basic things about God's word. **You are like babies who need milk and cannot eat solid food**. For someone who lives on milk is still an infant and doesn't know how to do what is right. **Solid food is for those who are mature**, who through training have the skill to recognize the difference between right and wrong." (Hebrews 5:12-14 NLT) We can see through these New Testament examples that God not only desires us to grow, he expects us to grow!

BECOME SPIRITUALLY STABLE

"Then we will no longer be **immature like children**. We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth." (Ephesians 4:14 NLT) Spiritually mature believers will be stable in their faith and won't be disturbed by the winds of change or taken in by deception. Spiritual growth helps us to walk in wisdom and to become a strong contributor to the Kingdom of God. What great joy you will experience when you discover your calling and put it to use to serve others. Growing up spiritually helps us fulfill God's purpose for our lives.

HOW TO GROW SPIRITUALLY

1) Feed on God's Word

"Desire the **pure milk of the word**, that you may grow." (1 Peter 2:2 NKJV) Our spirit needs proper nourishment for growth. That nourishment comes from the Word of God. Take in the Word daily by reading it, listening to it and most importantly, meditating on it. When you meditate on the Word, you speak it, think

about it and rehearse it. You chew on it, much like a cow chews its cud. This process allows God's truth to get absorbed into your spirit, becoming a part of your life. God told Joshua to "**meditate day and night** that you may observe to do according to all that is written"... and then you will have good success" (Joshua 1:8 NKJV).

2) Exercise (Use What You Know)

"Solid food, on the other hand, is for adults, who **through practice** are able to distinguish between good and evil." (Hebrews 5:14 GNT) James reminds us that we should be **doers**, not just hearers of the word. (James 1:25) We can

exercise the Word by walking in love. This means walking in forgiveness and showing kindness and compassion to others. Equally important, we need to walk by faith. We can do this by trusting that God is at work in our situations and by promptly obeying His leadings.



Excerpt from Spiritual Growth Series

Miigwetch,
Dr. Roma J. Fisher

RECEIVE NEW LIFE

God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him won't perish but have eternal life.
John 3:16 CEB

You can experience God's love and forgiveness today!

- Believe Jesus is God's Son sent for you
- Admit you need a Savior
- Open your heart and ask Him into your life

If you've made this decision today, call or email us. We would love to hear from you!

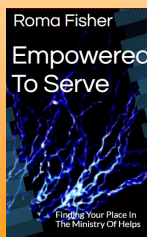
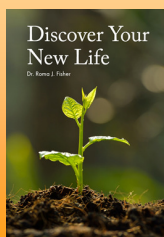
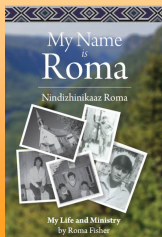
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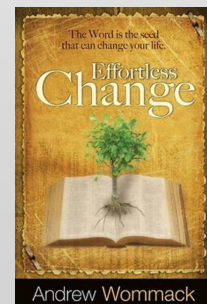
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Service times: Sunday 10:30 am, Wednesday 7:00 pm

Faith City Church & Spirit Alive Studio Location
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