

Truth Produces Spiritual Growth

Jas 1:1 James, a bond-servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes who are dispersed abroad: Greetings. 2 Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. 4 And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. 5 But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. 6 But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. 7 For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, 8 being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

When I was a college freshman Bishop Thompson taught me how to fast and pray. That same year I had become so burdened for my mother who was in a backslidden state. In faith and desperation I determined I would fast and pray for an entire week for my mother's restoration. On the seventh day of my fast my friend Ronnie Hill preached and she rededicated her life to Jesus. She would live an exemplary Christian life until her death at 44.

My discovery is that Truth plus Faith produces Experiences that yield Spiritual Growth

TRUTH + FAITH = EXPERIENCES

EXPERIENCE + EXPERIENCE + EXPERIENCE = SPIRITUAL GROWTH

The primary reason most Christians don't have spiritual hunger or spiritual growth is because they seldom apply truth to daily living. You don't become a chess player by watching people play chess on tv. You don't get good at cooking by watching food network only. You don't grow in golf by playing putt-putt golf.

Golf required that I take lessons. Go play. Buy equipment.
DO SOMETHING BASED ON THE TRUTH I LEARNED.

1. Fully Engage in His Truth

Engage in Learning from Teaching

Engage in Learning from Personal Study

Bishop taught me these scriptures on prayer and fasting:

1Jn 5:14 This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. 15 And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.

Dan. 9.3// Matt 17.20,21

2. Act on the Truth You Know

The Next Level of Understanding Comes When You Obey

“When the pupil is ready then the teacher will appear”

Isa 30:19 O people in Zion, inhabitant in Jerusalem, you will weep no longer. He will surely be gracious to you at the sound of your cry; when He hears it, He will answer you. 20 Although the Lord has given you bread of privation and water of oppression, He, your Teacher will no longer hide Himself, but your eyes will behold your Teacher. 21 Your ears will hear a word behind you, "This is the way, walk in it," whenever you turn to the right or to the left.

The Next Level of Faith Comes When You Obey

3. Fight Experiences Produce Growth

James 1:2 Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.

Every Time You Fight and Fail You Grow

Righteous falls seven times!

Prov. 24.16 NLT

The godly may trip seven times but they will get up again. But one disaster is enough to overthrow the wicked.

People are training for success when they should be training for failure. Failure is far more common than success; poverty is more prevalent than wealth; and disappointment more normal than arrival. —J.WALLACE HAMILTON

Every Time You Fight You Win

Every Time You Win YOU WIN

1Ti 1:18 This command I entrust to you, Timothy, my son, in accordance with the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you fight the good fight,

1Ti 6:12 Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

2Ti 4:7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith;