

# LEAD YOUR HEART

“Do You Really Want to Grow Up in Christ?”

Most of the problems in our lives come from spiritual immaturity. We make bad decisions. We base them on how we feel. We base them on our emotions and passions—we follow our heart. But, MATURE PEOPLE make decisions on wisdom and facts, not emotions.

Growth is God’s Will for every one of us.

Babies are cute. Kids are cute. But if they don’t grow up, that’s tragic.

Some people grow older but never grow up.

God wants us to do both. Grow older & GROW more Christlike

## Ephesians 4:14-15 (CSBBible)

<sup>14</sup> Then we will no longer be little children, tossed by the waves and blown around by every wind of teaching, by human cunning with cleverness in the techniques of deceit. <sup>15</sup> But speaking the truth in love, let us grow in every way into him who is the head—Christ.

The perfect picture of maturity in every way is JESUS.

## Laws of Spiritual Growth. These things that are a MUST.

### 1) SPIRITUAL FOOD

- a. God’s Word is your SPIRITUAL FOOD!
- b. What kind of condition would you be in if you ate a huge meal on Sunday but NOTHING the rest of the week? TERRIBLE! You must be eating daily.
- c. **Matthew 4:4 (CSBBible)** <sup>4</sup> He answered, "It is written: Man must not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God."
- d. **Acts 20:32 (CSBBible)** <sup>32</sup> "And now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you an inheritance among all who are sanctified.
- e. God wants you to have great gifts of blessings, but he’s waiting for you to grow up. There are some gifts you can’t give to a baby.
- f. HAND of BIBLE READING: Hear it. Read it. Study it. Meditate on it. Memorize it. Act on it.

### 2) LEARN in Several Ways

- a. We all have different ways of learning, plus we do better when we experience something in different ways. HEAR IT. SEE IT. WRITE IT. SPEAK IT. DO IT.
- b. Some of you are wondering why you aren’t really learning...because you’re not making an effort to LEARN by experiencing it beyond just hearing.
- c. I’m asking you to HEAR IT. But also to SEE IT and WRITE IT daily. Also to SPEAK IT in a small group during the week and DO IT through that group.
- d. We’re offering Sunday morning chances, Sunday Night, Monday Night, Wednesday afternoon, and Wednesday night. If you don’t get it and start learning during this 40 Day Experience, it’s because you have chosen NOT TO LEAD YOUR HEART.

### 3) SPIRITUAL HABITS

- a. Your CHARACTER is the SUM TOTAL of your habits.  
You can’t say you’re a KIND person if you are only KIND 75% of the time.  
You can’t say you have INTEGRITY if you are only honest 30% of the time.  
**What if I told Kim I was going to be faithful 27 days of the month? Ridiculous!**  
**If I’m faithful 27 days of the month, I’m really UNFAITHFUL.**  
**If I’m only obedient half the time, then I’m really DISOBEDIENT.**

How do you develop habits? REPETITION and PRACTICE. Do something every day for 6-weeks to develop a habit.

Why is Bible Reading so difficult? You read for a 2 or 3 days and then miss a day. Then miss a week, then a month, ... then you may quit altogether. **It's time to make a decision to LEAD YOUR HEART and make this a habit!**

**John 13:17 (CSBBible)** <sup>17</sup>If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

*An Olympic Athlete said, "I practice so much not to make sure I won't do it wrong, but to make certain I'll do it right!"*

**Hebrews 5:14 (CSBBible)** <sup>14</sup> But solid food is for the mature—for those whose senses have been trained to distinguish between good and evil.

I want you to make a habit of:

- gathering with your church for worship and
- gathering with a small group to study and
- having a DAILY time with God
- memorizing some important verses that will help you

**Acts 2:46-47 (CSBBible)** <sup>46</sup> Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple, and broke bread from house to house. They ate their food with joyful and sincere hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. Every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

How many of you want people to say about you, at the end of your life, that you were successful? Hopefully all of us. God makes us a promise in Joshua 1:8...

**Joshua 1:8 (CSBBible)**

<sup>8</sup> This book of instruction **must not depart from your mouth**; you are to **meditate on it day and night** so that you may **carefully observe everything written in it**. For **then you will prosper and succeed in whatever you do**.

## 4) HELP OTHERS GROW

a. Spiritual Growth is RELATIONAL! We need each other!

**Hebrews 10:24-25 (CSBBible)**

<sup>24</sup> And let us watch out for one another to provoke love and good works, <sup>25</sup> not neglecting to gather together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging each other, and all the more as you see the day approaching. (by the way, "gather together" was the only way in Bible)

- b. Did you know there are at LEAST 56 "One Another" verses in the Bible?
- c. You must be CONNECTED to other BELIEVERS if you are going to GROW.
- d. Many other religions ISOLATE themselves from everyone. Jesus said it's in the community of people where we show our Christlikeness.
- e. The reason you are using for NOT being in a small group or Sunday School Class is the very reason you NEED to BE in a SMALL GROUP of Sunday School class.

## 5) EXPECT to GROW

- a. This is where Faith comes in. "God, help me to grow during these 40 days."
- b. Matthew 9:29 "Then he touched their eyes saying, "Let it be done for you ACCORDING to your faith."
- c. Have a great attitude and expect some great things to happen to you and your church!

## 6) COMMIT to GROW

- a. Growth is not going to just HAPPEN to you. YOU must be INTENTIONAL!
- b. A year from now you can be spiritually STRONGER and more SOLID and more INTIMATE with Christ...if you will COMMIT and BE INTENTIONAL about it.

**Jeremiah 29:13 (CSBBible)** " You will seek me and find me when you search for me with all your heart."

Now, what should you do? What's your **TAKEAWAY** today?

**If you want to GROW and EXPECT to GROW, you will get FULLY INVOLVED in this Spiritual Growth opportunity.**