



STUDY GUIDE

LIVING NEW 09.04.2016

[set up]

Who do you believe has prayed for you that you would grow in your faith and your faithfulness to Christ? Have you seen answers to their prayers in your life?

Who have you prayed for that they would grow spiritually? What would you look for as evidence that they are growing?

[digging deeper]

Read Colossians 1:1-14. What we have here is a prayer from the Apostle Paul for the young Colossian church. List all the prayer requests you see him pray for (thanksgiving, requests, etc.). Use a large post it, a notepad, or larger piece of paper to capture.

According to these verses, to what did Paul attribute the spiritual growth of the Colossians?

How do we grow in producing fruit *for* God?

How do we grow in our knowledge *of* God?

How do we grow in our strength *in* God?

How do we grow in our thankfulness *to* God?

What is one insight for spiritual growth found in each of these verses?

Eph. 4:15 _____

2 Peter 3:18 _____

2 Thess. 1:3 _____

2 Peter 1:5-8 _____

[living it out]

From your earlier list of prayers from Paul, circle and share which prayer request most echoes the cry of your heart right now? Is there any other insight or discovery from this study that amplifies that desire for growth? If so, share it now.

To close out this time, move into a time of group prayer. Just as Paul prayed for the Colossian church, pray for one another.

Pray for each other over the area of growth that you cry out most for right now. If your group is larger, break into smaller groups of 2-3 people.

Pray for each other and for our church that we would grow in our:

- (1) Fruit for God,
- (2) Knowledge of God,
- (3) Strength in God, and
- (4) Gratitude to God.

Pray also for the “Living New” series that we kick off this week, that people will fully engage, experience a spiritual growth spurt, and live out the Fruit of New Life more in their lives.

Lift up any other prayers (thanksgivings, confessions, requests) that are shared.