

## Spiritual Growth

Next Steps – Part 3

*“In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.” James 2:17 (NIV)*

*“For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son...” Romans 8:29 (NLT)*

### Obvious Ways to Grow Spiritually

1) God’s Word  
(John 8:31b)

2) God’s People  
(Romans 1:12)

3) God’s Spirit  
(2 Corinthians 3:18b)

### Not So Obvious Ways to Grow Spiritually

#### 1) God uses trouble to teach me to trust Him.

*“We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character” Romans 5:3-4 (NLT)*

*“...he became deeply troubled and distressed. He told them, ‘My soul is crushed with grief to the point of death...’”  
Mark 14:33-34 (NLT)*

*“‘Father,’ he said, ‘everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.’”  
Mark 14:36 (NIV)*

#### 2) God uses temptations to teach me to obey Him.

*“Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted there by the devil.” Matthew 4:1 (NIV)*

*“‘Get out of here, Satan,’ Jesus told him. ‘For the Scriptures say, You must worship the lord your God and serve only him.’” Matthew 4:10 (NLT)*

#### 3) God uses trespasses to teach me to forgive others.

*“Those who passed by hurled insults at him... the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders mocked him... the rebels who were crucified with him also heaped insults on him.” Matthew 27:39-44 (NIV)*

*“Jesus said, ‘Father, forgive them, for they don’t know what they are doing...’” Luke 23:34 (NIV)*