

DISCIPLESHIP TODAY

A Discipleship Center Publication – October 2020



THIS MONTH'S FOCUS – Christian Growth

And So the Story Goes....

Chuck Swindoll has written, "Remember during your growing-up years how your mother had a specially designed wall with some pencil marks on it where, as you grew from year to year, she marked where your head reached? We had such a wall in our home. It was interesting to see how our children went through certain growth spurts at times.

"On occasions, it was convicting when I came back from a trip and one of the smaller children asked, "Daddy, how much did you grow while you were away?" No, they didn't have spiritual growth in mind, but I often thought about their question in that light. They wanted to know, "Do you keep growing? When does it stop?"

In your own spiritual growth, where are the marks on the wall of your life? Where do you stand in light of last year? Or how about the last decade?

They Said It:

"If you catch a small shark and confine it, it will stay a size proportionate to the aquarium you put it in. Sharks can be six inches long yet fully matured. But if you turn them loose in the ocean, they grow to their normal length of eight feet. That is like what happens to some Christians. I have seen some of the cutest little six-inch Christians who swim around in a little puddle. But if you were to put them out into a larger arena, into the broad view of a whole creation, they might become great."

– Pastoral Renewal, February 1985



"Growth is intentional. It requires commitment and effort to grow. A person must want to grow, decide to grow, and make an effort to grow."
– Rick Warren

A person who is "born again" starts a new life similar to that of a newborn infant. Seven rules that promote good health in babies can be adapted and applied to a Christian's spiritual growth.

1. **Daily Food.** Take in the "pure milk of the Word" (your Bible) through study and meditation.
2. **Fresh Air.** Pray often or you will faint. Prayer is the oxygen of the soul.
3. **Regular Exercise.** Put into practice what you learn in God's Word.
4. **Adequate Rest.** Rely on God at all times in simple faith.
5. **Clean Surroundings.** Avoid evil company and whatever will weaken you spiritually.
6. **Loving Care.** Be part of a church where you will benefit from a pastor's teaching and Christian fellowship.
7. **Periodic Checkups.** Regularly examine your spiritual health.

– Unknown

Readings From The Scriptures:

Day 1 – Luke 2:52

Day 2 – Acts 18:18-28

Day 3 – I Corinthians 3:5-7

Day 4 – Ephesians 4:15-16

Day 5 – Colossians 1:9-11

Day 6 – Colossians 2:18-19

Day 7 – II Thessalonians 1:3

Try This Memory Verse:

"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." (II Peter 3:18)

News & Notes . . .

• Many Thanks!

- To Pastor Jeff Rogers and SDMI leader Michelle Archer for hosting two discipleship workshops with Canastota COTN in August!
- To Pastor Paul Colgan for supporting the TDC ministry from the very start!
- To the Discipleship Class at Auburn COTN!
- God has carried the TDC through an unusual 2020, and He has done that through people like YOU! We are so grateful for your faithful prayers and giving during the past months, despite COVID!

• Zoom Workshop Upcoming:

We invite you to join in on a free **Zoom** workshop entitled "**How To Study Your Bible**" on **Saturday, November 7 – 10:00-11:30 a.m.** Contact us at edarlin1@gmail.com for more details!

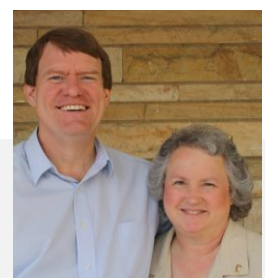
• Christian Growth Bookmark – A

bookmark you can print and give away can be found at www.discipleshipcenter.org/toolsandlinks, and then click on "Christian Growth Avenues Bookmark."

• Visit our website – more great tools to help you grow as a Christian are available through the above link, such as:

- [Steps to Peace with God](#) (from Billy Graham Evangelistic Association)
- [How to Have a Daily Quiet Time](#) (from The Navigators)
- [Where to Look in the Bible ...](#)
- [Advent Calendar Scriptures and Songs](#)
- [5 Keys to Knowing God's Will](#)
- [100 Christian Books to Read](#)
- [Prayer Guide](#) (3 sections)
- [How May We Pray For You?](#) (for use in Small Groups/Classes)

• Discipleship Workshops – can be presented at your church, with your small group, or at your home. Go to our website for a full listing of available topics to explore!



For workshop information, or to become a sponsor of TDC, please see our website at www.discipleshipcenter.org or you may contact us at: **Ed Darling**, Founding Director, 3356 E. Genesee Street Road, Auburn, NY 13021; edarlin1@gmail.com // dcentercny60@gmail.com // (315) 256-6548.

Avenues of Christian Growth

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S R I J E U X K O N J E O O W P V U
H L T D B I J B F Y R K I I O I M C
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