

[ALL IN]

Owasso First Assembly of God

Pastor Bruce McCarty

November 24, 2019

Are you a fully obedient, totally devoted,
completely dependent, **continually growing**
follower of Jesus?

Fully obedient-Luke 9:23

Totally devoted-Matthew 22:37-38

Completely dependent-Romans 8:5-9

Continually growing-2 Peter 3:18 (ESV) *But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.*
2 Corinthians 5:17 (ESV) *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.*

Romans 12:2 (ESV) *Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*

1. People change.... just not much, or for long, on their own.
2. People only change when they hurt enough, learn enough, or receive enough to change.
3. Spiritual change effects our character.

4. Spiritual change can be high or low impact and short or long term.
5. Spiritual change is accomplished through **faith in Jesus Christ** and the **ministry of the Holy Spirit** and **the power of God's Word**. This is not comparative but complementary.

What you need to know: God's plan for your life is continual growth.

1. The Holy Spirit **transforms** you from fleshly to spiritual

Galatians 5:16-26 (ESV) ¹⁶ *But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.* ¹⁷ *For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.* ¹⁸ *But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.* ¹⁹ *Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, ²¹ envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.* ²² *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things*

there is no law. ²⁴ *And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.* ²⁵ *If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.* ²⁶ *Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.*

A. THE FLESH

1. The “flesh” is an individual **behaving** independently of the Spirit.
2. The flesh seeks to **hinder** your spiritual development.
3. The works (deeds) of the flesh (sinful human nature) are **evident** as fruit on a tree.
4. Paul lists five categories of sin that the flesh produces.
 - A. sexual sins (3)
 - B. Religious sins (2)
 - C. Societal sins (8)
 - D. Intemperate sins (2)
 - E. Unnamed sins(?)

B. THE SPIRIT

1. The Spirit is an individual **yielded** continually to the Spirit.
2. The Spirit **enables** (produces) your spiritual development.
3. The fruit (not fruits) of the Spirit is the **behavioral** manifestation of Spirit dependence.

Fruit in the heart: a. **Love** b. **Joy**-constant delight in God
c. **Peace**-with God, others, and yourself

Fruit in relationships: a. **patience** b. **kindness** c. **goodness**

Fruit in action: a. faithfulness b. gentleness c. self-control

2. The Word of God equips you to pursue Christian character

2 Peter 1:5-7 (ESV) ⁵ *For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, ⁶ and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, ⁷ and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love.*

1. This encouragement is based on the provision of God.

2. Peter says you are to build on your faith with godly characteristics.

3. Peter says to add 1. Virtuous living, 2. Knowledge, 3. Self-control, 4. perseverance, 5. godliness, 6. brotherly kindness, 7. Love.

4. Peter says by doing these things you will avoid being useless and unfruitful.

5. When we develop these qualities, we can be sure that we will not stumble.

2 Peter 1:8-10 (ESV) ⁸ *For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful*

in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. ¹⁰ Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall.

What you need to know: Ask God to use His Word and the Holy Spirit to create lasting change in your life, transforming you into the image of Jesus more and more every day.