

Who Will Water Your Flower? Why We Grow Better Together 40 Days of Community, Part 3 [10.15.05]

Romans 12:2: “Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will know what God wants you to do, and you will know how good and pleasing and perfect his will really is.”

Colossians 3:10: “...you have clothed yourselves with a brand-new nature that is continually being renewed as you learn more and more about Christ, who created this new nature within you.”

2 Corinthians 3:18: “And all of us have had that veil removed so that we can be mirrors that brightly reflect the glory of the Lord. And as the Spirit of the Lord works within us, we become more and more like him and reflect his glory even more.”

Philippians 2:13: “For God is working in you, giving you the desire to obey him and the power to do what pleases him.”

I. We grow better when others are _____ for us.

Ephesians 1:16-17: “I have never stopped thanking God for you. I pray for you constantly, asking God, the glorious Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you might grow in your knowledge of God.”

Colossians 1:9-10: “So we have continued praying for you ever since we first heard about you. We ask God to give you a complete understanding of what he wants to do in your lives, and we ask him to make you wise with spiritual wisdom. Then the way you live will always honor and please the Lord, and you will continually do good, kind things for others. All the while, you will learn to know God better and better.”

II. We grow better in an environment that provides _____ and _____.

Romans 12:10: “Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other.”

Romans 15:7: “So accept each other just as Christ has accepted you; then God will be glorified.”

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**III. We grow better when we heal _____
and _____.**

Ephesians 4:25: “So put away all falsehood and tell your neighbor the truth because we belong to each other.”

James 5:16: “Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and wonderful results.”

IV. We grow better when we have _____.

Hebrews 10:24-25: “Think of ways to encourage one another to outbursts of love and good deeds. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage and warn each other, especially now that the day of his coming back again is drawing near.”

Paroxusmos = “encourage”: to stimulate or provoke to do incredibly loving good deeds.

Parakaleo = “encourage and warn”: to positively encourage to do the things that draw us closer to God; and to warn against those things that draw us away from God.

Accelerate your spiritual growth!

- † Accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior
- † Seek to know God better: study and meditate on the Bible and pray daily
- † Seek to follow Christ: apply what you learn from the Bible to your life
- † Seek to submit to the Holy Spirit: desire and pray for your transformation
- † Immerse yourself in a small group for the blessings of biblical community
- † Allow God to work with and through you: join a ministry team, serve in your small group, serve your neighbors
- † Learn to share the essentials of your faith with others
- † Find a mentor you trust
- † Begin to teach, lead, and mentor others
- † Read good books [see a list at www.groben.com/teachings.html]

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