

How to Avoid Spiritual Dullness

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Everything alive is growing...

Growth is a natural progression of life. And that includes people. God has given us life, and every day we have the opportunity to grow – physically, intellectually, emotionally, and spiritually. Growing in Christ and conforming to His image is a major topic in the scripture. Conforming to the image of Christ is a top priority. We have made Christianity about going to heaven and not going to hell. Those are the benefits of being in Christ.

Heaven and hell are not the primary reason that Christ saved you. God gave us the Word of God so that we can see and understand His divine nature and how to operate His nature through us.

Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and Jesus our Lord, as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. (II Peter 1:2-3, NKJV)

Notice that God has given us His divine power through the knowledge of Jesus Christ. And that these promises are both great and precious, and through them (the promises), they lead us to experience God's divine nature.

Christians are disciples...

A disciple is a learner. Learners learn. For disciples, learning is a way of life. A disciple of Christ never stops developing as a Christ-follower and becoming like Christ. Growing in Christ is not for the faint in heart or the passive follower. Personal growth and spiritual growth are both a choice and both vital for a great life. Every day we have the opportunity to learn, grow and change.

When we receive Christ, we receive a new way to live. All things become new. This newness brings a new understanding. We call this change – transformation.

Therefore, we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. (II Corinthians 4:16, NKJV)

Being renewed is a daily process. The process begins from day one of becoming a Christian.

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.” (II Corinthians 5:17 NKJ).

Nicodemus came searching for transformation...

“There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, “Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.” Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” Nicodemus said to Him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born? Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the Kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is Spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit” (John 3:1–8 NKJ).

Jesus told Nicodemus you must be born again in order to see the Kingdom of God. So, being born again imparts to us the ability to see things the way God sees them.

The power of transformation...

Transformation (change) begins when an unbeliever becomes a believer. After finding God’s transforming power, the greatest need is to unlearn our old ways. As we allow God to lead us, He will lead us to surrender the things (even the good things) that are counterproductive to our spiritual life.

This is the process of exchanging our old ways for God’s new way of doing life. God’s ways are not our ways. God does not think like us. His thoughts are higher than our thoughts.

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.” For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the Sower and bread to the eater, so shall my Word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.” (Isaiah 55:8–11 NKJV).

We define the word “higher” as lofty, higher up, or soaring. God gives us thoughts that cause us to live higher, soar through life and “live up” to the purpose and calling He has for our life.

Let's notice how God sends His thoughts to us — through His Word. As rain and snow nourish the earth, so God's Word nourishes our soul. The Word of God has a distinct difference from all other books. The words mixed with faith possess their own life and power.

The Word is living and powerful. The Word living means active and is defined as energy. It means to operate and to work. God's Word has inherent power. This means when God speaks, what he speaks carries the ability to fulfill what he said. This is the way God's Word saves, heals, and delivers. God's Word also pierces. (Hebrews 4:12, NKJV)

God's Word heals and delivers. The Word of God divides our soul from our Spirit. This means it reaches into the soul and apportions truth to the dark areas and enlightens our hearts to turn toward Him.

Turning toward God is where spiritual growth begins...

The essence of spirituality is never void of growth. Regression in spirituality is also possible.

There is much more we would like to say about this, but it is difficult to explain, especially since you are spiritually dull and don't seem to listen. You have been believers so long now that you ought to be teaching others. Instead, you need someone to teach you again the basic things about God's word.^[a] You are like babies who need milk and cannot eat solid food. For someone who lives on milk is still an infant and doesn't know how to do what is right (Hebrews 5:11-13, NKJV).

It is possible to become spiritually dull. So, it is imperative that we stay hungry for God.

You can keep your spiritual hunger active by doing these simple steps...

- Connect to God every day.
- Talk to God throughout your day.
- Talk with the Holy Spirit daily.
- Spend time in worship.
- Use commute times for worship and meditation.
- Share God with others.
- Read the word in the morning and before bed.