

Praying for Spiritual Growth

1 Thessalonians 3:6-13

Main Point:

In preparation for Christ's coming, pray for Him to grow you in holiness.

1. Spiritual health is something to rejoice over.
2. But there is always room for more growth in your life.
3. You should pray for Jesus to give you this growth.
4. Because you want to have abundant proof of your salvation at His return.

Cross-References and Quotations

Andrew Young "Timothy's report had fallen on Paul's ears like the good news of the gospel!"

Andrew Young "Apparently, there were truths they did not understand fully, other things they did not know at all, and patterns of living among them that were not consistent with the gospel ... And while Paul knew that a letter could meet some of these needs, he also knew that there was no substitute for face-to-face contact."

Philippians 2:12-13 ¹² Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³ for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for *His* good pleasure. (NKJV)

Matthew 7:7-8 ⁷ "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ⁸ "For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. (NKJV)

Titus 2:14 ¹⁴ who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself *His* own special people, zealous for good works. (NKJV)

John 15:5, 7 ⁵ "I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing ... ⁷ "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. (NKJV)

Andrew Young "The Lord Jesus himself is the true vine ... the source of all of our spiritual life through the Spirit. Every spiritual blessing must be sought from him ... A living relationship through prayer with the Lord Jesus is the source of spiritual vigor."

Matthew 7:16-20 ¹⁶ "You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? ¹⁷ "Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. ¹⁸ "A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor *can* a bad tree bear good fruit. ¹⁹ "Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰ "Therefore by their fruits you will know them. (NKJV)

Richard Phillips "Looking forward to the coming of Christ, Paul states that only holiness can give us a confident expectation of salvation on the great day when Christ returns ... This blameless and holy life does not procure our salvation, but rather proves it."

Galatians 5:6 ⁶ For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love. (NKJV)