

**“Develop a Spiritual Growth Plan,” II Peter 3:10-18, page 1193**

**Introduction:**

1. Do you remember the A Team T.V. program?
  - A. Four unique guys who were on a mission to help people in trouble.
  - B. Almost every program found them in an impossible situation.
  - C. They were very creative, and after shooting about a million bullets and blowing up half of the world, they always came out winners.
  - D. They always won because Hannibal, the cigar-smoking leader, always had a plan!
2. Almost every worthwhile accomplishment in life is realized because of a good plan.
3. The Bible is God’s written plan of how He is going to redeem the human race.
  - A. Nothing is left to chance.
  - B. Everything is carefully planned.
  - C. The plan is followed to the smallest detail.
4. The “Ten Steps to a Dynamic Christian Life” is simply one way of outlining God’s plan.
  - A. This gives us a blueprint to follow.
  - B. When we follow His plan, we will always come out a winner.
5. This morning let’s consider how to “Develop a Dynamic Spiritual Growth Plan.”

**I. Study the Bible.**

- A. The Bible is the only valid blueprint for Christian living.
- B. God is the author of life:
  1. He understands every aspect of life: Physical, emotional, spiritual.
  2. He sustains life.
  3. He will evaluate and judge our lives according to His blueprint for life.
  4. He knows what we need to experience abundant living.
- C. Every building has a blueprint that explains how the building should be constructed from beginning to end.
  1. Having the blueprint in the truck and never studying it will not work.
  2. Simply unrolling the blueprint and looking casually at it will not work.
  3. Reading just the first page of the blueprint is just not enough.
  4. Daily lay out blueprints and follow carefully each detail of construction.
- D. The same is true of the Bible; careful study is required.

**II. Study the Bible individually: II Timothy 2:15, page 1165: “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”**

- A. Studying the Bible is different than simply reading the Bible.
  1. There may be some value in reading through the Bible in a year.
  2. There is much greater value in taking time to carefully study the Bible, even if it takes two weeks to fully understand one chapter.

- B. Be willing to invest in some quality study guides to help you understand the deeper truths of the Bible.
  - 1. Purchase a quality study Bible.
  - 2. Computer programs of the Bible and study guides.
  - 3. Bible on C.D.
  - 4. Computer programs that have different commentaries.
  - 5. Franklin Prophecy Bible
- C. Personal Bible study will require:
  - 1. Discipline and a determined mind set.
  - 2. Establish some specific goals.
  - 3. Take time.
- D. There is a great reward in personal Bible study.
  - 1. Understanding God's plan.
  - 2. Confidence that comes with understanding of specific scriptural promises.
  - 3. Peace that comes from having a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
  - 4. Ability to help others understand God's Word.

**III. Study the Bible collectively: Acts 2:42, page 1063: “And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.”**

- A. There is great value in attending Bible study groups.
  - 1. Each individual can share personal thoughts and experiences.
  - 2. Each individual should be free to evaluate and raise questions.
  - 3. Each individual has a background knowledge that they can share.
- B. The more diverse the Bible study group, the better the Bible study.
  - 1. The truths recorded in the Bible are strong enough to withstand the most intense evaluation.
  - 2. Discussion and study is a good thing.
  - 3. It is all right to say: “I never thought of that definition before.”
  - 4. It doesn't mean that I am going to accept that definition, but it helps me to test my own definition and belief.
- C. Each of us needs to be in a group Bible study.
  - 1. It will make you a stronger Christian.
  - 2. It will help you feel more confident in your understanding of the Bible.
  - 3. It will unite you with the other members of that Bible study.
- D. Attend weekly church services where the Bible is taught.

**Conclusion:**

- 1. Spiritual growth will not happen without a specific personal growth plan.
- 2. It is an individual thing, and the responsibility is totally up to you.
- 3. Each of us must personally develop our own spiritual growth plan and then work our plan.
- 4. The choice is yours to make spiritual health and strength or spiritual weakness. Choose wisely.