

THE ROADMAP TO GROWTH

— CHRISTUS VICTOR WEEK 7 —

Colossians 1:9–14 (NIV)

I. THE _____ OF CHRISTIAN GROWTH

⁹For this reason, since the day we heard about you,

we have not stopped praying for you.

We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will

through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives,

II. THE _____ OF CHRISTIAN GROWTH

¹⁰**so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord** and please him in every way:

(1) **bearing fruit in every good work,**

(2) **growing in the knowledge of God,**

¹¹(3) **being strengthened with all power**

according to his glorious might

so that you may have great endurance and patience,

¹²(4) and **giving joyful thanks to the Father,**

III. THE _____ FOR CHRISTIAN GROWTH

(1) **who has qualified you** to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light.

¹³(2) **For he has rescued us** from the dominion of darkness

(3) **and brought us** into the kingdom of the Son he loves,

¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Evaluate your Christian growth using a scale of 1 to 4 (1 = weak; 4 = strong)

I. THE PRIORITY OF CHRISTIAN GROWTH

Paul implies that a growing Christian life flows out of being full of the knowledge of God's will. How am I doing in seeking this as a priority?

- Pursuing more of the knowledge of God's will in the Spirit, in the Scriptures, in the gospel, and in moral choices: 1 2 3 4
- Recognizing the need for the Spirit's work in my life, evidenced by praying for my own spiritual growth: 1 2 3 4
- Recognizing the need for the Spirit's work in the lives of others, evidenced by praying for their spiritual growth: 1 2 3 4

II. THE PICTURE OF CHRISTIAN GROWTH

Paul says the purpose of growing in the knowledge of God is that we live lives worthy of the Lord. How do I evaluate the evidence of this in my life?

- Very generally, living a life worthy of the Lord: 1 2 3 4
- Specifically, in the four aspects Paul describes:
 1. The natural "fruit" of good works in our lives: 1 2 3 4
 2. Coming to know God more and more: 1 2 3 4
 3. Experiencing God's power, manifested in perseverance and endurance in the faith: 1 2 3 4
 4. Living a life of joyful thankfulness to God: 1 2 3 4

III. THE POSITION FOR CHRISTIAN GROWTH

Paul gives three truths that are key to the knowledge of God as seen in the Scriptures and the gospel. How firmly do I believe these truths and how well do I raise them to the level of controlling beliefs that impact my thinking and lead me in joyful thankfulness to God?

1. God has granted me a place in his family, his chosen people: 1 2 3 4
2. God has rescued me from the control of Satan: 1 2 3 4
3. God has brought me into the Kingdom of Jesus, involving the forgiveness of all my sins: 1 2 3 4

THE BOTTOM LINE

If we want to live a life worthy of the Lord like described in Part II, the key lies in Part I, where we see we must grow in the knowledge of God's will, with the help of the Holy Spirit. This growth in the knowledge of God's will involves believing and applying the truths about our position in Christ that Paul describes in Part III. So the most important question becomes, how can I grow in the knowledge of God's will, with the help of the Holy Spirit?

This week I will: _____