

3 Who is responsible for your growth in Christ?

Some people think that they are totally responsible for their spiritual growth. Others believe that God causes them to grow no matter what they do. Let's see what the Bible says.

"For it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure." — Philippians 2:13

"... Discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness. ... Godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come." — 1 Timothy 4:7,8

So, according to these verses, who is responsible for your spiritual growth?



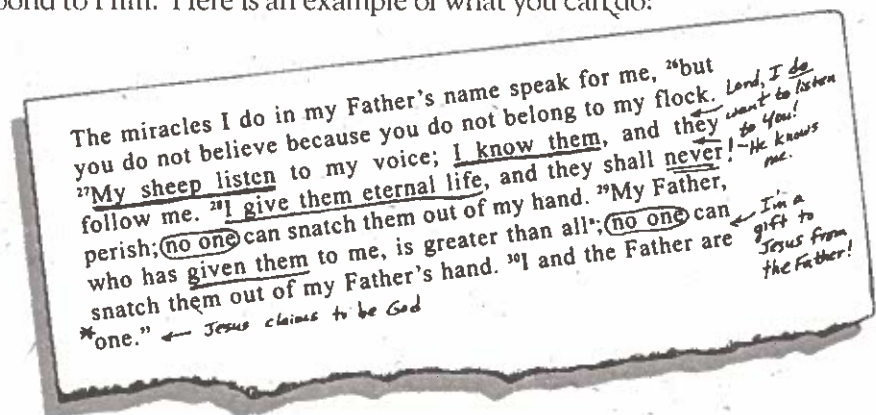
KEY QUESTIONS

What will it take for you to grow in this partnership with God? Is it worth it? (See John 15:10,11.)

Remember, God loves you unconditionally — just the way you are. His boundless love toward you is not dependent upon the amount of your growth.

4 What can you do now?

- Set aside time and a place for daily personal Bible study. You may want to begin your study in the Gospel of John. As you read, underline particularly meaningful verses. Pray. Ask God to show you who He is and how you can respond to Him. Here is an example of what you can do:



Some additional suggested passages for study are the ones in this lesson. Other passages are: Colossians 1:9-12; Matthew 7:7-11; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21; 1 Corinthians 12:12-27; Psalm 1; Psalm 34; Psalm 103; Psalm 145; John 15:1-7; and Luke 9:23-26.

- Spend a few minutes each day in prayer. Tell God your concerns, confess any sins, ask Him to direct you and thank Him for His blessings.
- If you are not already attending a church where Christ is honored and the Bible is taught, begin as soon as possible.
- Become involved in a Bible study or discipleship group where you can enjoy the encouragement of others who also are learning more about their life in Christ.
- Remember to talk to someone about Christ (Psalm 73:28).