


Barry G. Johnson, Sr. / General

Goal; Increase; Vision / Matthew 5:48

Having given spiritual life to his people, God expects them to grow to maturity.

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# Nature of the Goal

## Press on Toward the Goal

### Matthew 5:48

#### **Matthew 5:48 ESV**

<sup>48</sup> You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

#### **Philippians 3:14–15 ESV**

<sup>14</sup> I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. <sup>15</sup> Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you.

## God desires the spiritual growth of his people

#### **Hebrews 6:1 ESV**

<sup>1</sup> Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God,

## Christlikeness is the goal of spiritual growth

**Romans 8:29 ESV**

<sup>29</sup> For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

## Aspects of spiritual growth

### Growth in grace

**2 Peter 3:18 ESV**

<sup>18</sup> But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

### Growth in faith

**2 Thessalonians 1:3 ESV**

<sup>3</sup> We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing.

### Growth in love

**1 Thessalonians 3:12 ESV**

<sup>12</sup> and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you,

### Growth in understanding

**1 Corinthians 14:20 ESV**

<sup>20</sup> Brothers, do not be children in your thinking. Be infants in evil, but in your thinking be mature.

## Growth in holiness

### 2 Corinthians 7:1 ESV

<sup>1</sup> Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God.

## Growth in fruitfulness

### John 15:16 ESV

<sup>16</sup> You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.

## Growth in contentment

### Philippians 4:11–12 ESV

<sup>11</sup> Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. <sup>12</sup> I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need.

## God's Plan of Salvation

### GOD'S PART

1. The great love of God for man ([John 3:16](#))
2. He gave His Son, Jesus Christ, as the Saviour ([Luke 19:10](#))
3. Sent the Holy Spirit as a guide ([John 16:13](#))
4. Gave the Gospel as "the power" unto salvation ([Romans 1:16](#))
5. Provided atonement by the blood of Christ ([Romans 5:9](#))

### MAN'S PART

1. Hear the Gospel. ([Romans 10:17](#), [John 8:32](#))
2. Believe the Gospel ([Hebrews 11:6](#), [John 20:31](#))
3. Repent of past sins ([Luke 13:3](#), [Acts 17:30](#))
4. Confess faith in Jesus Christ ([Romans 10:10](#), [Matthew 10:32](#))
5. Be Baptized ([Galatians 3:27](#), [Mark 16:16](#), [Acts 2:38](#))
6. Be faithful unto death ([Revelations 2:10](#))

**Will you gladly accept His Word?**

