LESSON # 5
WHAT IS INVOLVED IN SPIRITUAL GROWTH

I. SOME REASONS WHY EVERY CHILD OF GOD NEEDS TO GROW SPIRITUALLY.

A. When a person is saved he is born again spiritually into

   God's family and becomes a spiritual ________________

   (Jn. 1:12; I Cor. 3:1). Just like a baby born into a
   fleshly family must have nourishment to grow and develop,
   so must a new christian. Notice while getting saved is an
   _________________________ transformation (II Cor. 5:17)

   spiritual growth is a _________________ of development
   (Eph. 4:11-15).

B. When a person is saved he not only acquires a new nature

   which is _________________ (II Pet. 1:4) but he
   receives the _____________ and _______________ for
   spiritual growth (II Pet. 3:18).

C. When a person is saved it becomes a spiritual

   _________________ or __________ to develop

   spiritually. When a believer fails to grow spiritually
   he displays _________________ to the Lord's command

   (II Pet. 3:18); I Tim. 2:15) and limits himself in God's
service (Heb. 5:11-14).

D. When a person is saved and doesn't grow spiritually he
misses the purpose which the Lord has for him. It is
the goal of every believer to become more and more like
the _______ ____________ in every aspect of his life
(II Cor. 3:18).

a. Notice God's purpose in saving us is for ____________
and spiritual development is necessary for service
(Eph. 4:13-16; Rom. 6:11-13; II tim. 3:16).

b. Notice the christian is to _____________ the Lord in a
life of service (Eph. 2:10; I Cor. 10:31; Jn. 15:8).
When a christian fails to develop spiritually his life
will not be glorifying to the Lord.

II. SOME OF THE AREAS IN WHICH THE CHILD OF GOD NEEDS TO GROW
SPIRITUALLY.

A. Every child of God needs to develop and increase in the
______________ of God and how He deals with His
children (Col. 1:10; Heb. 12:5-11).

B. Every child of God needs to grow and develop in the
area of christian ________________ (I Thess. 3:12;
II Thess. 1:3; II Pet. 1:4-8).

C. Every child of God needs to grow spiritually in his
______________ with Christ. This ought to involve
a deeper sense of ________________ and ________________
(I Jn. 4:19; II Cor. 5:14), a deeper ________________
and _______________________ (Jn. 3:30; Phil. 2:9-11),
and a deeper commitment to carry out His ____________ (Acts 20:22-24; 21:13; Phil. 1:20,21).

D. Every child of God needs to grow spiritually in finding
out what the Lord's ____________ is and going about to
______________ His will (Eph. 5:17; Col. 1:9; Heb. 13:21). When a believer fails to grow in these
areas his spiritual immaturity usually results in a poor
testimony and brings reproach upon the Lord.

III. SOME OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CHILD OF GOD TO GROW
SPIRITUALLY.

A. For the child of God to grow spiritually he must receive
the spiritual nourishment which is the ____________ of
God (I Pet. 2:2; Jn. 6:23; II Tim. 3:16,17; Psa. 1:1-3).

B. Notice since spiritual growth is predicated upon
receiving the nourishment of God's Word there are
several things which will help us to develop more
quickly:

1. A believer can grow spiritually by having a time of
devotions and getting into God's Word (Psa. 1:1-3; 119:15,16).

2. A believer will grow spiritually by being in
in which he is instructed and challenged by the Word of God (Heb. 10:25).

3. A believer will grow spiritually by fellowshiping
   with other ________________ who are spiritually mature (Titus 2:2-8).

4. Believers can also grow spiritually by reading good ________________, listening to good ________________ and attending other Christian functions in which Christ is exalted and saints are exhorted and encouraged spiritually (I Thess. 5:14; 3:12,13; 4:1).

C. For the child of God to grow spiritually he must yield himself to the Holy Spirit's ________________ and ________________ (Eph. 5:18; Gal. 5:16,18). This involves the spirit of God using the Word of God to speak to our hearts and direct us (II Cor. 3:18). As we yield to Him we continue to develop spiritually but when we fail to yield to Him we grieve Him and our spiritual growth stops (Eph. 4:30; Heb. 5:12).

IV. SOME OF THE HINDRANCES WHICH WILL KEEP THE CHILD OF GOD FROM GROWING SPIRITUALLY.
A. A believer will not experience proper spiritual growth when he is unfaithful in ________________ ________________ (I Cor. 4:2; Rom. 10:17; Heb. 10:25).

B. A believer will not develop proper spiritual growth if he neglects the practice of having __________ ______________ (Isa. 30:15; 40:31; Matt. 4:4).

C. A believer will not grow spiritually if he is ______________ to the Word of God and will not yield himself to the Spirit's control (I Pet. 1:22; Heb. 5:11-14; Gal. 5:16-18).

D. A believer will not experience proper spiritual growth unless he learns to claim God's _______________ and ______________ Him in the various trials and circumstances of this life (Rom. 5:3-5; II Cor. 1:20,21).

V. SOME OF THE BLESSINGS WHICH COME TO THE CHILD OF GOD WHO DEVELOPS PROPER SPIRITUAL GROWTH.

A. The believer who experiences proper spiritual growth will not be ensnared and entangled by the cunning ______________ of the devil which lead many astray (Eph. 4:13,14; I Jn. 4:1-3). The new convert who fails to grow spiritually is especially vulnerable to the false teachings of the religious cults which the devil uses to ensnare those who are undiscerning.

B. The believer who experiences proper spiritual growth
will be greatly __________ in God's service and will
bring great __________ to God (Acts 6:1-6; I Cor. 6:4;
Gal. 6:1; I Tim. 3:6).

C. The believer who continues to grow spiritually will avoid
   many of the problems which result from a ____________
   life (I Cor. 3:1-3; Gal. 6:8).

VI. MEMORY VERSES: II PET. 3:18; I PET. 2:2; II COR. 3:18.

VII. QUESTIONS RELATING TO THIS LESSON

A. Salvation is instantaneous but spiritual growth is a
   ________________ of _______________________.

B. What does the believer need in order for him to grow
   spiritually (I Pet. 2:2)
   ________________

C. Name 3 things which will help a believer to grow
   spiritually.
   ________________
   ________________
   ________________

D. Name 3 areas in which the christian needs to grow.
   ________________
   ________________
E. What 2 Scriptures command us to grow spiritually and point out to us that it is an obligation and duty?

F. Which believers are especially vulnerable to the devil's false teachings?

G. Name 3 blessings which result from proper spiritual growth?