

On the Move
April 2, 2017 **Pastor Bill Bump**

Our goal is for each person who attends LFMC to experience spiritual movement in their life.

We cannot delegate our spiritual movement to anyone else. It is a very personal responsibility.

Today: A challenge to keep making
spiritual progress

Colossians 2:6-7 ⁶And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him. ⁷Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness.

Hebrews 6:1 So let us stop going over the basic teachings about Christ again and again. Let us go on instead and become mature in our understanding. Surely we don't need to start again with the fundamental importance of repenting from evil deeds and placing our faith in God.

In our Christian life, we never stand still; we either go forward or gradually slip backward.

What we can learn about spiritual movement from Colossians 2:6-7

1. The Christian life entails spiritual movement.

Receiving Jesus is not the end, but the beginning, of our spiritual life.

All growth and spiritual movement is based on our obedience.

2. The Christian life entails believing.

We believe the truth that is given to us in Scripture. Our faith is established in that instruction.

A sign of healthy spiritual movement is desiring to know more of God and His Word.

3. The Christian life entails thanksgiving.

To be filled with thanksgiving is a sign that God is working in our life.

Conclusion from Colossians 2:6-7

The Christian who has spiritual movement in their life is one who is established in their faith by obedience, who is rooted in the truth of God's Word, and whose life is overflowing with gratitude.

Move Strategy

The *Move* strategy has identified a spiritual continuum along which we all move.

First stage: Exploring Christ

The people in this stage may have a basic belief in God, but they are unsure about the necessity of Jesus in their life.

The single most defining characteristic for this segment is spiritual indifference.

Second stage: Growing in Christ

The people in this stage have a personal relationship with Jesus, but they are just beginning to learn what it means and what it takes to develop a growing relationship with Him.

Love of God becomes a personal value.

Third stage: Close to Christ

The people in this stage depend on Jesus every day. They see Jesus as someone who assists them in life.

The most significant characteristic is the high degree of ownership they take of their spiritual journey.

Fourth stage: Christ-centered

The people in this stage would identify their relationship with Jesus as the most important relationship in their whole life.

The most significant characteristic is that these people have yielded control of their lives to Jesus.

Conclusion

Every person falls into one of two categories: either we are an active seeker of God with spiritual movement or we are a very passive seeker of God, satisfied with a shallow spiritual life.