

READ the following passages. **Mark everything that stands out to you.**

^{2:1} Therefore, putting aside all malice and all guile and hypocrisy and envy & all slander, ² like newborn babes, long for the pure milk of the word, that by it you may grow in respect to salvation, ³ if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord. (1 Peter 2:1-3, NASB)

² May God bless you with His special favor & wonderful peace as you come to know Jesus, our God & Lord, better and better. (2 Peter 1:2, NLT)

³ And how can we be sure that we belong to Him? By obeying His commandments. ⁴ If someone says, "I belong to God," but doesn't obey God's commandments, that person is a liar and does not live in the truth. ⁵ But those who obey God's Word really do love Him. That is the way to know whether or not we live in Him. ⁶ Those who say they live in God should live their lives as Christ did. [1 John 2:3-6, NLT]

²¹ Dear friends, if our conscience is clear, we can come to God with bold confidence. ²² And we will receive whatever we request because we obey Him & do the things that please Him.

²³ And this is His commandment: We must believe in the name of His Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded us. ²⁴ Those who obey God's commandments live in fellowship with Him, and He with them. And we know He lives in us because the Holy Spirit lives in us. [1 John 3:21-24, NLT]

Write your thoughts from what you marked in the above passages. _____

RESPOND (Application for this week) **WHAT** were the most significant scriptures for you this week? (Write them out and highlight key words or phrases.) _____

WHY are those scriptures *significant to you* at this time in your life?

HOW can you practically apply what God spoke to you about? (Give specifics/ action steps)

WHAT will be the time frame for your application?
(1) Start Date _____ (2) Progress Check Date(s) _____ (3) Finish Date _____
/ /

WHO I can ask to hold me accountable for my application: _____

Sermon-Based Devotional

Lawrence Free Methodist Church
(Based on a Sermon by Pastor Bill Bump on April 2nd, 2017)

On the Move

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.

REFLECT What does the above passage say about your personal responsibility concerning your relationship with Christ & spiritual growth?

READ 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.*

REFLECT Write your observations and thoughts from Hebrews 6:1.

Now paraphrase (put into your own words) what Hebrews 6:1 means to you personally. _____

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**.

RESPOND (Application) Is there a truth you believe God has spoken to you about & that you believe you need to respond to, thank God for, or take action—in order to put *traction* to your faith? _____

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**

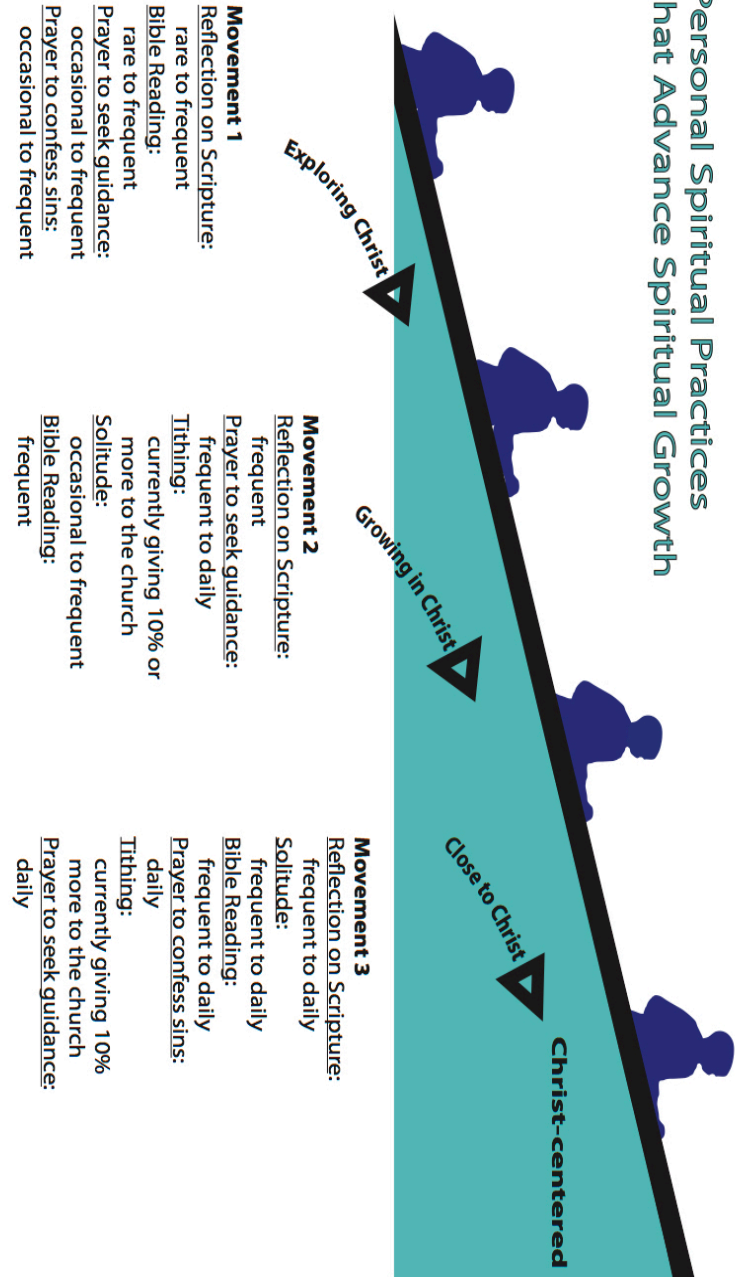
The people in this stage would identify their relationship with Jesus as the **most important** relationship in their whole life.

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.

Personal Spiritual Practices
that Advance Spiritual Growth



(based on MOVE, written by Greg L. Hawkins & Cally Parkinson, published by Zondervan)