

CORE HABITS FOR GROWTH



HEBREWS 13:17 // DARRYL DASH

Remember, consider, and imitate those who taught you the Word by practicing four key habits. Read Hebrews 13:17 and consider why it was written for the church. You may not think about your spiritual leaders, but you should. Mature leaders, elders, mentors, parents, and teachers are motivated by God to set an example for you to follow. There are probably a few spiritually mature people that God has placed in your life in a highly influential manner. Write up to three of these mature believer's names down in the spaces provided.

Darryl mentioned specific qualities of spiritual leaders that inspire him as a growing disciple. When you look at the names on your list above, how do adapt their mature habits in your life?

1. Growing believers engage the Bible (Psalm 1:2-3)

The Lifeway study referenced in this sermon found that the number one practice leading to spiritual growth is Bible reading. What does it mean to take delight in reading scripture?

What good things would happen if you spent more time reading scripture than you currently do?

2. Growing believers speak with God (Matthew 7:7-8)

Take a minute to check your personal calendar and ask yourself, “When will I really engage God in prayer this week? What upcoming situations do I want to talk with him about?”

You may prefer to pray in the morning at home, during a break at work, or in the evening before you get ready for bed. Perhaps you want prayer to feel fresh and spontaneous. Why do you look for those kinds of moments to support your prayer life?

3. Growing believers worship and belong (Ephesians 4:15-16)

God has blessed Christian fellowship so that being together helps us grow. Take a moment to list several of the benefits you experience when you meet with the church to worship God and encourage one another.

We believe that great small groups support spiritual growth through strategic multiplication. As groups attract more people, they see the advantage of creating two groups from the one larger group. The smaller groups help more people belong to God and participate in the same church with more mature believers to learn from. This puts the emphasis on worshipping God over belonging to people. Yet, it's difficult to do! Growth is based on prioritizing competing values like worship and belonging to a community. What happens to our spiritual growth if we choose belonging to people over worshipping God?

4. Growing believers adapt these habits into their lives

How are you practicing these habits in a way that works for you? Which of these four habits could mean fresh growth for you?