

## **Growth: A New Testament Overview [Worksheet]**

### **Acts 6:7**

1. What caused the expansion of the church in Acts?
2. How does Acts 6:7 compare to 12:24 and 19:20?

### **1 Corinthians 3:6-7**

1. To whom was the growth of the Corinthian church attributed?
2. 2. What does this mean for leaders and followers?
3. 3. What human leaders contributed to the Corinthian church's growth?

### **Ephesians 2:19-22**

1. To what is the growth of the Church likened?
2. Who is the chief cornerstone of the Church's foundation?

### **Ephesians 4:11-16**

1. Whom has God ordained to lead his Church, the Body of Christ?
2. What factors contribute to spiritual growth?
3. What is the essence of church growth (vv. 15-16)?

### **Colossians 1:9-10**

1. One of Paul's highest aspirations for the Colossian church had to do with growth. Just what was this aspiration?
2. How did Paul contribute to the growth of the Colossian church?

### **Colossians 2:18-19**

1. Where does growth originate? By whom is it mediated?
2. What is the key to spiritual growth?
3. By implication, what is useless in regards to spiritual growth?

### **1 Peter 2:2**

1. What specific action are we commanded to take in order to promote spiritual growth?

### **2 Peter 3:18**

1. In what specific areas does God command us to grow?

## The Discipline of Bible Assimilation [Worksheet]

1. What does the account of Jesus' temptation teach us concerning the importance of God's Word (Matt. 4:1-11)?

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2. What aspect of our lives has the potential to deprive God's Word of its power (Mark 7:8-13)?

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3. According to Jesus' prayer for his disciples, what role does God's Word play in our lives (John 17:14-18)?

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4. What does the experience of the early church teach us concerning the role of the minister (Acts 6:1-7)?

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5. What image is used to describe the Word of God (Eph. 6:17)? What is the significance of this designation?

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6. How should a local church relate to the Word (Col. 3:16)? How should the Word be expressed in the context of a congregation?

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7. What do Paul's letters to Timothy and Titus teach us about the minister's use of the Word of God (2 Tim. 2:15; 4:1-2; Tit. 1:7-9)?

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8. What images are used to describe the Word of God (Heb. 5:12-14; 1 Pet. 2:1-3)? What can we do to achieve spiritual maturity?

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9. What is the primary role of spiritual leaders (Heb. 13:7)? Where does their authority reside? How should we respond to their leadership?

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10. What do we have to set aside so that we can receive God's Word (Jas. 1:21-23)? How should we receive it? As we hear God's Word, what must we do to ensure that we receive His blessings in our lives?

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# The Discipline of Bible Assimilation: Meditation [Worksheet]

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"Reading without meditation will be useless; meditation without reading will be barren."--Thomas Shepard II, 17th-century New England minister, to a son newly enrolled at Harvard College

## Study Questions

1. Is the discipline of meditation ever commanded in Scripture?
2. What kinds of things should be the subject of meditation?
3. What are some of the benefits of meditation?
4. How, when, and where should meditation be practiced?

## Bible Texts

### Genesis 24:63

And Isaac went out to meditate<sup>1</sup> in the field at the eventide: and he lifted up his eyes, and saw, and, behold, the camels were coming.

### Joshua 1:8

This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate<sup>2</sup> therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

### Psalms 1:2

But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate<sup>2</sup> day and night.

### Psalms 5:1

Give ear to my words, O LORD, consider my meditation.<sup>2</sup>

### Psalms 19:14

Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation<sup>2</sup> of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.

### Psalms 49:3

My mouth shall speak of wisdom; and the meditation<sup>2</sup> of my heart shall be of understanding.

### Psalms 63:6

When I remember thee upon my bed, and meditate<sup>2</sup> on thee in the night watches.

### Psalms 77:12

I will meditate<sup>2</sup> also of all thy work, and talk of thy doings.

### Psalms 104:34

My meditation<sup>3</sup> of him shall be sweet: I will be glad in the LORD.

## Notes

<sup>1</sup>This word comes from a Hebrew word that includes the following shades of meaning: to meditate, muse, commune, speak, complain.

<sup>2</sup>This word comes from a family of Hebrew words that conveys the concepts of moaning, musing, meditating, muttering, and murmuring.

<sup>3</sup>This word comes from a family of Hebrew words that conveys the concepts of meditating, musing, communing, studying, and complaining.

<sup>4</sup>This word comes from a Greek word that includes the following meanings: to care for, attend to carefully, practice, meditate, devise.

Psalm 119:97

O how I love thy law! it is my meditation<sup>3</sup> all the day.

Psalm 119:99

I have more understanding than all my teachers: for thy testimonies are my meditation.<sup>3</sup>

Psalm 143:5

I remember the days of old; I meditate<sup>2</sup> on all thy works; I muse on the work of thy hands.

1 Timothy 4:15

Meditate upon<sup>4</sup> these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all.

