

Date: _____

Principles of Christian Growth

Section Two: The Means of Christian Growth – How do we do it?

Lesson Three: We grow through prayer.

Bible Reading: Eph. 1:15-19, 3:14-21, Phil. 1:8-11, Col. 1:9-12, 1 Thess. 3:11-13, 2 Thess. 1:11-12.

In one sense, to say that we need to read our Bible and pray to grow is to state the obvious for most believers. We teach the very young in song, “Read your Bible, pray every day, and you will grow, grow, grow.” But in another sense, it is also true that few believers’ prayers are the kind of prayers for spiritual growth in grace that we find in the New Testament. Our study this week will examine those prayers and challenge us to better pray in order to grow in Christlikeness.

Discussion questions:

1. The passages listed above are the prayers of Paul for Christian growth. As you examine them, do you find Paul praying for his own growth, or that of others? What does this say about how believers grow in Christ through prayer?
2. Take the passages one at a time, and identify for each passage one request Paul makes regarding the growth of believers.
3. What virtue produces prayers for spiritual growth (Eph. 1:15-16, 3:13, Phil. 1:3, Col. 1:7-8, 1 Thess. 3:9-11, 2 Thess. 2:13)?
4. What promise meets our prayers for spiritual growth (Eph. 3:20)?