

## Growing in Christ

### 3) Read Ephesians 4:15 (NIV). What will the Scripture do in your life?

#### Scripture

Ephesians 4:15 NIV

*Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.*

- Ephesians 4:15b Amplified Bible says “*let us grow up in all things into Him (following His example) who is the Head \_\_ Christ.*”

#### ANSWER

The Scripture will help us grow in Christ.

John 15:5-6 NIV

<sup>5</sup>“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned.

I Timothy 1:9 (Scripture help us acknowledge Jesus Christ paid the price)

- *Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,*
- ✓ Do daily devotions, develop a reading plan, study Scriptures, dedicate time to pray, obtain resources, memorize Scripture, intentionally plan to increase your faith!
- ✓ Spiritual growth comes through reading, studying, memorizing, and meditating on the Scriptures.

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### 4) Explore Hebrews 4:12-13 (MSG). What is the word of God able to do in your heart?

#### Scripture

*12-13 God means what he says. What he says goes. His powerful Word is sharp as a surgeon's scalpel, cutting through everything, whether doubt or defense, laying us open to listen and obey. Nothing and no one can resist God's Word. We can't get away from it—no matter what.*

#### AMP

*12 For the word of God is living and active and full of power [making it operative, energizing, and effective]. It is sharper than any two-edged <sup>[a]</sup>sword, penetrating as far as the division of the <sup>[b]</sup>soul and spirit [the completeness of a person], and of both joints and marrow [the deepest parts of our nature], exposing and judging the very thoughts and intentions of the heart. <sup>13</sup> And not a creature exists that is concealed from His sight, but all things are open and exposed, and revealed to the eyes of Him with whom we have to give account.*

#### ANSWER

The word of God is

- ✓ Able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.
- ✓ Able to allow victory over sin by applying Scriptures in our lives.
- ✓ Able to give us food for spiritual maturity and prepare us for eternity w/God.
- ✓ Able to correct, instruct, inspire, and chastise us.
- ✓

Acts 20:32a NIV

*Now I commit you to God and to the **word of his grace**, which can build you up!*

Psalm 119:9 & 11

*<sup>9</sup> Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to **thy word**. <sup>11</sup> Thy **word** have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.*

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II Timothy 3:16-17 AMP

*<sup>16</sup> All Scripture is God-breathed [given by divine inspiration] and is profitable for instruction, for conviction [of sin], for correction [of error and restoration to obedience], for training in righteousness [learning to live in conformity to God's will, both publicly and privately—behaving honorably with personal integrity and moral courage]; <sup>17</sup> so that the <sup>[a]</sup>man of God may be complete and proficient, outfitted and thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

II Timothy 3:16-17 KJV

<sup>16</sup> All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: <sup>17</sup> That the man of God **may be perfect**, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

### 5) Read James 1:22-25 MSG. How did James say we should respond to the word of God?

**22-24** Don't fool yourself into thinking that you are a listener when you are anything but, letting the Word go in one ear and out the other. **Act** on what you hear! Those who hear and don't act are like those who glance in the mirror, walk away, and two minutes later have no idea who they are, what they look like.

<sup>25</sup> But whoever catches a glimpse of the revealed counsel of God—the free life!—even out of the corner of his eye, and sticks with it, is no distracted scatterbrain but a man or woman of action. That person will find delight and affirmation in the action.

### ANSWER

- ✓ Be doers of the word.
- ✓ Act on the Word.
- ✓ Catch a glimpse, stick to the Word and take action!

James 1:22-25 ESV

*<sup>22</sup> But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. <sup>23</sup> For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. <sup>24</sup> For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. <sup>25</sup> But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law*

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*of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.*

Deuteronomy 6:6-7

*<sup>6</sup> And these words, which I command thee this day, **shall be in thine heart:** <sup>7</sup> And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.*

Psalm 1:1-3 KJV

*1 Blessed is the man that walketh **not** in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. <sup>2</sup> But his **delight** is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he **meditate day and night**. <sup>3</sup> And he shall be like a **tree planted** by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and **whatsoever he doeth shall prosper**.*

Joshua 1:8

*<sup>8</sup> This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate 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.*