

MISSIONS

...at home and around the world



How can I grow spiritually by taking the next step

I was wondering what I was going to write about in this month's Missions team Article. With nothing coming to mind I asked God for his help. So I figured that while I'd wait for his answer I would read and catch up on my email. I subscribe to a daily devotional from Dr. Charles Stanley which he sends out on email. Below is what he published for today's devotional. It blew me away! Talking about being spot on, please read with me as follows:

March 28

True Spiritual Growth

[James 1:17-27](#)

If you want to genuinely grow in spiritual maturity, it is not enough to simply be instructed by the Word of God. You may love going to church or listening to Christian radio programs. You might talk about everything you hear and assume you're growing because your knowledge is increasing. However, if you don't actually grow closer to God by allowing His Word to change you from the inside out, your head will merely continue to fill with information. You might even sound like a godly person who is admired for the ability to quote chapter and verse. But if you don't take the next step and allow God to touch others' lives through you, you're missing the point.

Spiritual growth is the result of practicing the truth you receive from God. He wants you to give away what He gives you--that is, by loving and serving others and sharing the truth of the gospel. Our example is Jesus, who said that He did not come to be served, but to serve even the lowest outcasts in His society ([Matt. 20:28](#)). He could have exalted Himself and spent all His time preaching and teaching. Instead, Jesus did only the Father's will, which was to reveal His heart of love to a broken world. The Lord sacrificially involved Himself in people's lives, and He calls us to follow in His footsteps.

God's plan is to reach the world through you. If that weren't the case, He would have taken you to [heaven](#) as soon as you were saved. But you are here for a purpose--to live out Christ's life alongside hurting people who desperately need to experience His love.

The Morales (moral) of the story here for me is that I cannot do enough to serve Him, the church, and my fellow man by sharing the gospel.

SSBC offers us so many ways to take the next steps. For instance, we are looking for volunteers to go to Ecuador and already have a tentative date for a short mission trip from June 16th to the 22nd. If you cannot make this trip we have other ways you can be involved through prayer and giving for those that are willing to go. We also have a need for members to be part of the Leadership or Mission teams. Also, don't forget that **Come as You Are** is still in effect, so please invite your friends, family and neighbors to come with you to church. We have so many opportunities to serve Him at our church. Let's get going...

God Bless You,

Carlos

