



# A Fruitful Life

Growing Character Through the Spirit

## What is Spiritual Growth?

But before we talk about fruit,  
we need to talk about growth.



“This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. All by itself the soil produces grain — first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come.”



**Mark 4:28**

What do you think of when I say the  
phrase "***Spiritual Growth?***"



What kind of *life* is God actually trying to *grow* in us?

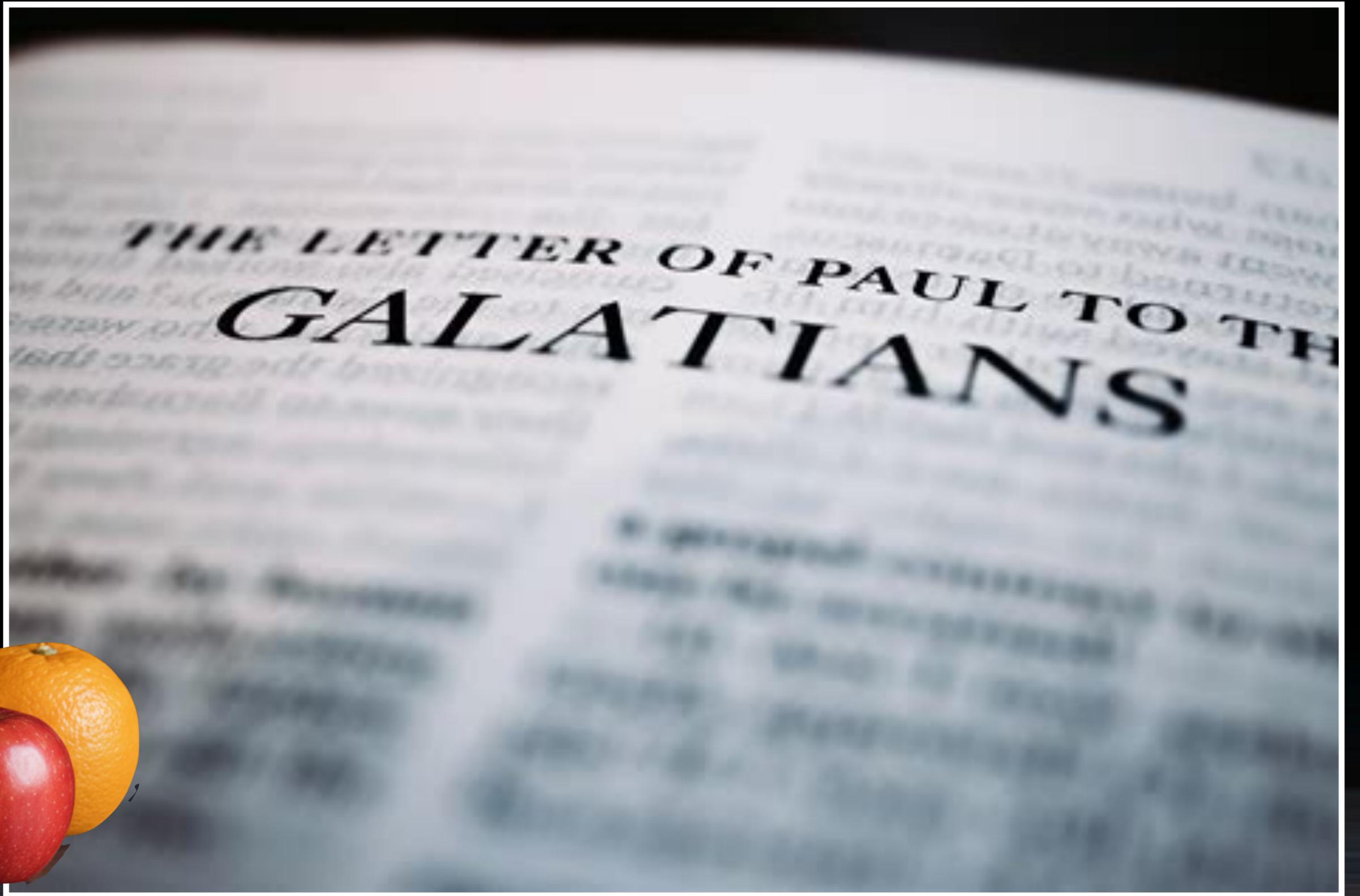


What kind of *life* is God actually trying to *grow* in us?

*“Christ in you, the hope of glory”*  
**(Colossians 1:27)**

*“It is no longer I who live,  
but Christ who lives in me”*  
**(Galatians 2:20)**







# ***JUDIAZERS***



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The message subtly shifted from:

- Salvation by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8–9)
- to salvation by faith plus performance



Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by believing what you heard? Are you so foolish? After beginning by means of the Spirit, are you now trying to finish by means of the flesh?

**Galatians 3:3.**



“So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify  
the desires of the flesh.  
For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit,  
and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh.  
They are in conflict with each other,  
so that you are not to do  
whatever you want.  
But if you are led by the Spirit,  
you are not under the law.”



**Galatians 5:16-18**

# Walk by the Spirit

*“Walk before me faithfully”*

**Genesis 17:1**

*“walk humbly with your God.”*

**Micah 6:8**



# Walk by the Spirit

*For those who are led by the Spirit of God  
are the children of God.*

***Romans 8:14***



*“For it is God who works in you to will  
and to act in order to fulfill his good  
purpose.”*

***Philippians 2:13***

**What is guiding your steps?**



“Walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.”

**Galatians 5:16**



Spiritual Growth is NOT

*Perfection*

*“Not that I have already obtained all  
this... but I press on”  
(Philippians 3:12).*



Spiritual Growth is NOT

*Comparison*

*“What is that to you? You follow me.”*

*John 21:22*



# Spiritual Growth is NOT

*Quick*

*The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.*

***2 Peter 3:9***



# A Working definition of Spiritual Growth

*Spiritual growth is the lifelong process of becoming more like Jesus as the Spirit shapes us from the inside out.*



- *Inside out*
- *Root before fruit*

# Works -vs- Fruit

*The acts of the flesh are obvious:  
sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery;  
idolatry and witchcraft;  
hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition,  
dissensions, factions and envy;  
drunkenness, orgies, and the like.  
I warn you, as I did before, that those  
who live like this  
will not inherit the kingdom of God.*



***Galatians 5:19-21***

# Works -vs- Fruit

*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.*

***Galatians 5:22***





*“I am the vine; you are the branches...  
apart from me you can do nothing.”*

***John 15:5***



# Preparing the Soil



**Where do you feel most alive  
spiritually right now?**



**Where do you feel most alive  
spiritually right now?**

**Where do you feel stuck?**



# You're Not Behind

*“He who began a good work in you  
will carry it on to completion.”*

***Philippians 1:6***



# **This week ...**

## ***1. Pause once a day.***

*Ask, “God, where are You in this moment?”*

## ***2. Identify one distraction.***

*Create a little space and see what grows there.*

## ***3. Read Galatians 5:16–26 slowly.***

*Not to analyze—just to listen.*

