

DEPTH



Shallow! How many of us would like to be described as such? To be a shallow person means that there is no depth to who we are. We operate on the surface and there is not much to us. God wants you to deepen with Him. To grow in depth means to grow more in your love for God, your knowledge of God and his world, and to develop Christ-like character in your soul. We need to continue to go deep.

THINK ABOUT IT

EXHORTATIONS AGAINST PERPETUAL SPIRITUAL IMMATURITY

Many times in the new Testament, we are encouraged to stop being babies in Christ. Look at the following passages together:

- » **Hebrews 5:11-14**
- » **1 Corinthians 3:1-12**
- » **1 Peter 2:1-3**

A PICTURE OF GROWTH

Read together **2 Peter 1:1-12**

Make a list together of the characteristics listed in this passage:

»	»
»	»
»	»
»	»

God will work these things into your life as you walk with Him, hang tight with other believers, and share the good news of Jesus with others. God does not want you to remain shallow—his plan for you is growth.

YOUR GROWTH — FOR YOUR GOOD, GOD’S GLORY, AND THE GROWTH OF OTHERS

Your Good

Growing more in your love for God brings peace to your soul and purpose to your life. As you learn more of God’s character and will for his world, the more you love Him. The more you become like Christ in your character you literally become a **better person**. God growing you up is clearly for your good.

God’s Glory

When we reflect Jesus Christ to the world around us—God’s glory (the essence of who he is) is magnified and praised in the earth. God will use our lives to bring praise and glory to himself — what a great privilege.

Other’s Growth

In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers...so the exhortation from Hebrews 5 reads. We must realize that as the Lord deepens you, he desires you to be an influence on others.



PRAY ABOUT IT — ADORATION, CONFESSION, THANKSGIVING, SUPPLICATION

- A** Thank God that he is a faithful God — he is more committed to you becoming like Jesus than you are.
- C** Confess your apathy/indifference towards God and your spiritual life.
- T** Thank God for your Ripped Group—friends you can grow deep with.
- S** Ask God to deepen you in your love for Him, your Knowledge and your Character.

WORK IT OUT — SUGGESTIONS FOR ACTION

A GAME PLAN FOR GROWTH

A growth plan is a guide which can help you grow in your love, knowledge, and character.

FIGURE 1 : A SAMPLE GROWTH PLAN

Church Involvement Goal:	Attend regularly for worship, join choir
Personal Devotional Goal:	Schedule in 15-30 minutes during you day for prayer, Bible, and personal worship.
Bible Study this Year	Old Testament—Read book of Proverbs New Testament—Study book of Colossians
Books to Read this Year	Read a book on God’s attributes — God, Discover His Character by Bill Bright or Our God Is Awesome: Encountering the Greatness of Our God by Tony Evans Read a book on sexual purity — Every Young Man’s Battle by Stephen Arterburn, Fred Stoeker, and Mike Yorkey
Christ-like Character	Praying with my Ripped group that God will develop patience and self-control in my life. Help me control my mouth with coaches.
Areas to obey God	Sharing my faith with my teammates—I will pray for the following people and then share the gospel with them: _____

“THE GOSPEL FOR US”

O to grace how great a debtor Daily I’m constrained to be!
Let Thy goodness, like a fetter, Bind my wandering heart to Thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, Prone to leave the God I love;
Here’s my heart, O take and seal it, Seal it for Thy courts above.

Come Thou Fount — Christian Hymn

I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, **but only God, who makes things grow.**

1 Corinthians 3:6,7

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