

Consistently Growing Obedience

1 John 2

being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. Philippians 1:6

Ways to measure our growth in Christ.

1. We have a developing pattern of _____.

My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. 1 John 1:1-2

God does not expect us to be sinless, but we are expected to sin less and less.

we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins 1 John 2:1-2a

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9

When we are cleansed by the blood of Christ a Christian may sin, but it doesn't stain the heart, because we are protected by the blood of Christ.

We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands. The man who says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him. 1 John 2:3-4

Good works and obedience are signs of our authenticity.

"If you love me, you will obey what I command. John 14:15

But if anyone obeys his word, God's love is truly made complete in him. This is how we know we are in him: Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did. 1 John 2:5-6

2. We have a deepening love for God's people.

Ways to measure our growth in Christ.

Dear friends, I am not writing you a new command but an old one, which you have had since the beginning. This old command is the message you have heard. Yet I am writing you a new command; its truth is seen in him and you, because the darkness is passing and the true light is already shining. 1 John 2:7-8

“Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against one of your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord. Leviticus 19:18

Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” And they divided up his clothes by casting lots. Luke 23:34

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” John 13:34-35

Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates his brother is still in the darkness. Whoever loves his brother lives in the light, and there is nothing in him to make him stumble. 1 John 2:9-10

Hatred of anyone is a sign that you are walking in darkness.

But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness; he does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded him. 1 John 2:11

How to overcome and release _____.

1. Realize that hatred destroys you.
2. Pray for the person you are bitter against.

But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:44-45

3. If it is possible, extend kindness to that person.

“If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.” Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. Romans 12:20-21

4. If necessary, confront them.
5. Remember how much you have been _____.

I write to you, dear children, because your sins have been forgiven on account of his name. 1 John 2:12

3. Increasing _____ for the world.

Ways to measure our growth in Christ.

Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 1 John 2:15

Three ways the Bible uses the word, “world”

1. The Creation God made
2. The People living in God’s _____
3. satan’s evil system on Earth

For everything in the world—the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does—comes not from the Father but from the world.

1 John 2:16

“Do not love the world”

1. The world can be very _____
2. The world is temporary

The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.

1 John 2:17

3. The world is threatening. It brings _____

Dear children, this is the last hour; and as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come. This is how we know it is the last hour.

They went out from us, but they did not really belong to us. For if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us; 1 John 2:18-19

Demas, because he loved this world, has deserted me and has gone to Thessalonica.

2 Timothy 4:10

Jesus entered the temple area and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves.

“It is written,” he said to them, “ ‘My house will be called a house of prayer,’ but you are making it a ‘den of robbers.’” Matthew 21:12-13

4. A growing _____ in God’s truth.

Ways to measure our growth in Christ.

But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth.

1 John 2:20

Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ. **Romans 10:17**

“But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us.” **Mark 9:22**

“‘If you can’?” said Jesus. “Everything is possible for him who believes.” **Mark 9:23**

Immediately the boy’s father exclaimed, “I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!”
Mark 9:24

Factors that reinforce truth as we mature.

1. The _____ verifies the truth.

Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ. **Romans 10:17**

The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned. **1 Corinthians 2:14**

2. Spiritual _____ verifies the truth.

Factors that reinforce truth as we mature.

I do not write to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it and because no lie comes from the truth. **1 John 2:21**

Who is the liar? It is the man who denies that Jesus is the Christ. Such a man is the antichrist—he denies the Father and the Son. **1 John 2:22**

No one who denies the Son has the Father; whoever acknowledges the Son has the Father also. **1 John 2:23**

3. F _____ verifies the truth.

Factors that reinforce truth as we mature.

See that what you have heard from the beginning remains in you. If it does, you also will remain in the Son and in the Father. And this is what he promised us—even eternal life.

1 John 2:24-25

Key: obedience, hatred, forgiven, disdain, Creation, tempting, tragedy, confidence, Holy Spirit, discernment, Faithfulness