
Grow Up or Swell up (Perfected with the Spirit or Infected by the World)

Growing in the Spirit of God

Pastor Wil Nichols

January 1, 2019

Victorious Praise Fellowship Church of God in Christ

2116 Page Rd. Durham NC 27703

WEBSITE: www.VictoriousPraise.org

EMAIL: PastorWil@VictoriousPraise.org, Info@VictoriousPraise.org

PHONE: (919) 957-7500

Sermon: Growing in the Spirit of God: Grow Up or Swell up (Perfected with the Spirit or Infected by the World)

Lesson Text

John 14:25–27 (AV)²⁵ These things have I spoken unto you, being *yet* present with you. ²⁶ But the Comforter, *which is* the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. ²⁷ Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

1 Corinthians 3:1–3 (AV)¹ And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, *even* as unto babes in Christ. ² I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able *to bear it*, neither yet now are ye able. ³ For ye are yet carnal: for whereas *there is* among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?

Psalms 1:1–3 (AV)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. ² But his delight *is* in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. ³ 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.

Introduction

We closed out 2018 looking at the Condition of the Church based on Christ's letters to 7 Churches in Asia Minor. 1. The Church had left its first love, 2. Willing to Suffer, 3. Become too Worldly, 4. Lost its Authority, 5. Was almost Dead, 6. Having a Revival, 7. Worthless.

We enter into 2019 with one powerful message from the Lord, to change our condition, we must Grow.

But as we learned from our previous series, many times although we are using the same words, when it comes to God, we're using a different dictionary.

Man's definition of Grow is about accumulation, promotion, wealth, numbers, recognition, increase, blow up!

But as with most things, God's definition of Grow is quite different, and can be summed up in Christ's two commandments to us:

- Mark 12:³⁰ **And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.**
- Mark 12:³¹ **And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.**

These commandments ultimately lead to Grow being expressed in terms like humility, suffering, trusting, decrease, letting go, trouble and tribulations.

It is this dichotomy, contrast, or contradiction that explains why so many people in church can be experiencing God, but not growing because they is no true relationship with God.

And that relationship starts with the Spirit of God.

John 14:²⁶ **But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.**

Over the next 10 weeks we will study the Purpose of the Holy Spirit, how to Receive the Holy Spirit, Being Filled with the Spirit, Speaking in Tongues and the Gifts of the Spirit, Growing the Fruit of the Spirit, and Understand and Answering Questions about the Holy Spirit, ...

This teaching will be based on our book “**The Complete Guide to Understanding the Holy Spirit**”; but tonight, we want to start by learning how to Grow in the Spirit!

John 4:²⁴ **God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.**

Without true Worship in the Spirit, Christians may appear to be growing up, but in actuality all they are doing is just swelling up.

To Grow Up means to become Perfected, but to Swell Up means to become Infected.

1 Corinthians 3:1–3 (AV)¹ And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, ...for whereas *there is* among you envying, and strife, and divisions, ...

Psalms 138:8 (AV)⁸ The LORD will perfect *that which* concerneth me: thy mercy, O LORD, *endureth* for ever: forsake not the works of thine own hands.

Series and Sermon: Growing in the Spirit of God: Grow Up or Swell up (Perfecting with the Spirit or Infected by the World)

“To Grow in God we must Learn the Spirit, Know the Spirit, and Use the Spirit”

I. Learning the Spirit

John 14: ²⁶ **But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, ...**

The first type of growth comes from what we learn. But what we learn depends on who’s doing the teaching. One will cause us to be perfected, and the other infected.

Psalms 1: ¹ Blessed is the man that **walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly**, ...

Counsel means “advice”; Counsel of the Ungodly is advice without the Spirit of God (Carnal).

1 Corinthians 3: ¹ And I brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal...

Too many people in the Church are getting their counsel, advice, teaching from the Ungodly; that is, from a non-Spiritual or Carnal foundation.

This ungodly carnal advice causes us to look like we’re growing, but we’re actually swelling up from the infection of carnality.

Jeremiah 17: ⁹ The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

1 Corinthians 3: ³ For ye are yet carnal: for whereas *there is* among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?

To Grow Up, we must Walk in the Spirit

Galatians 5:¹⁶ *This* I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

Romans 8:1 (AV)¹ *There is* therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

How do we Walk in the Spirit, by Walking by Faith!

2 Corinthians 5:7 (AV)⁷ (For we walk by faith, not by sight:)

Hebrews 11:6 (AV)⁶ But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

II. Knowing the Spirit

John 14: ²⁶ *But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, ...*

The second type of growth comes from what we know and where we're going. And what we know and where we go depends on who is showing us the way.

Psalms 1: ¹ Blessed *is* the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, *nor standeth in the way of sinners, ...*

Standing in the way of sinners means to take a path or way that sinners take; to miss the mark!

Philippians 3:¹⁴ I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Think about the mark as the signs or markers on the road that inform us as to where we are going. And spiritually, sin is the distraction that causes us to miss the mark.

When you're be counseled by the ungodly, all you know is the way of sinners. It looks like you're going somewhere; but actually swelling up from the infection of sin.

Proverbs 14:12 (AV)¹² There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof *are* the ways of death.

To Grow Up, we must Know the Way of the Spirit

John 14:6 (AV)⁶ Jesus saith unto him, *I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

Matthew 6:13 (AV)¹³ *And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: ...*

Psalms 37:²³ The steps of a *good* man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way.

How do we Know the Spirit? By knowing the Word!

1 John 4:1 (AV)¹ Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

Psalms 119:11 (AV)¹¹ Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

Romans 10:17 (AV)¹⁷ So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

III. Using the Spirit

John 14: ²⁷ **Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.**

The final type of growth comes from what we do, and the power behind it. And what we do, and how effective we are at doing it, will depend on the anointing we have to do it.

Psalm 1:1–3 (AV)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.**

Sitting in the seat of the scornful is literally giving up on what we're called to do. The scorners are atheists and agnostics who don't even believe in God.

Without the Spirit of God to Grow up, we become Infected and Swell Up

- When we don't Grow Up from Learning the Spirit, we will Swell up with the Infection of a Carnal Heart
- When we don't Grow Up from Knowing the the Spirit, we will Swell up with the Infection of an Ungodly Sinful Way
- When we don't Grow Up from Using the Power of the Spirit, we will Swell up with the Infection of Giving up and Sitting on our Calling and Anointing.

Romans 11:29 (AV)²⁹ For the gifts and calling of God *are* without repentance.

Simply put, when you don't Learn the Spirit and Know the Spirit, you will not be able to Use the Spirit.

So we depend upon what the World gives us: Human Power (How Many), and Human Might (How Strong); but ultimately it will all fail us.

To Grow Up, we must Use the Power of the Spirit

Zechariah 4:⁶ ...Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.

John 14: ²⁷ **Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: *not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.***

All the world gives us is enough to keep us troubled, enough to keep us in fear. But God gives us his Spirit to bring us out of Trouble, and to overcome all our of Fears!

2 Timothy 1:6–7 (AV)⁶ Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands. ⁷ For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

2 Corinthians 4:8–9 (AV)⁸ *We are* troubled on every side, yet not distressed; *we are* perplexed, but not in despair; ⁹ Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed;

Acts 1:8 (AV)⁸ **But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.**

Luke 10:19 (AV)¹⁹ **Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.**

Midweek Study Lesson Plan (Sermon: Grow Up or Swell up (Perfected with the Spirit or Infected by the World))

Study Tools:

- Video & Notes: <https://victoriouspraise.org/sermon-library> & <https://victoriouspraise.org/sermon-notes-copy>
- Bibles, Commentaries, Dictionaries: <https://www.blueletterbible.org/> & <https://biblehub.com/tools.htm>

Lesson Text

- John 14:25–27, 1 Corinthians 3:1–3, Psalm 1:1–3

Sermon Outline

- Learning the Spirit
- Knowing the Spirit
- Using the Spirit

Questions

I. Getting to Know “Me”

1. What do you desire to accomplish in 2019?
2. Are you a person who ask advice from others? Why or why not?

II. Into the Bible

1. David was a warrior. Yet, in 1 Samuel 30:8, he asked the Lord some questions. What were the questions? Why did he ask the Lord anything? What led David to do this?
2. Describe the trouble Paul encountered in Acts 27 and how he used his anointing to influence others.

III. Life Application

1. What can you do to protect yourself from ungodly counsel from others and how can you be sure to not give ungodly counsel?
2. Share various ways in which you can provoke (your family, co-workers, fellow church members, friends, etc.) to love and to good works.

Prayer

- **Prayer Request:**

- **Personal Prayer:**