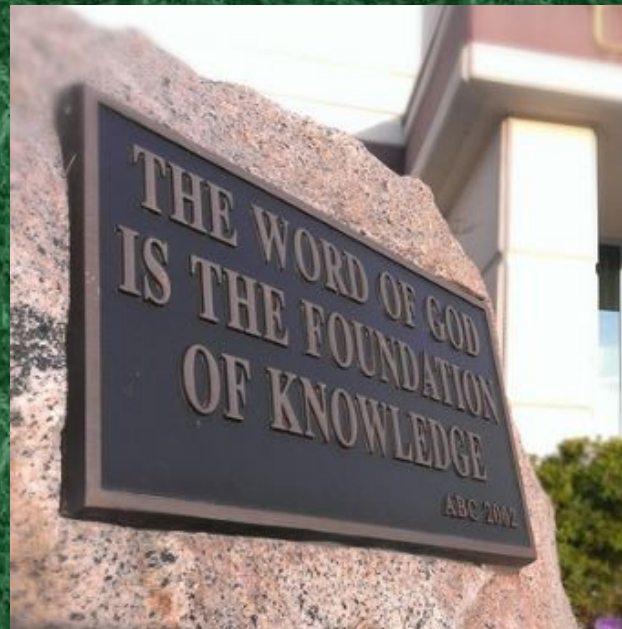


# Weeknight Bible Discussion

## September 22, 2022

Transforming Your Life: The Process of Conversion [\(Booklet\)](#)

United Church of God, SF Bay Area



# Session Goals:

1. Fellowship in a Spiritually Uplifting focus in God's Word
2. Hear from All Participants as equally as possible
3. Discuss / Highlight / Collect Wisdom... In a God Led Discussion.

## Booklet Section: Growing to Spiritual Maturity – Part 1 [Pgs. 45 - 49]

Many people believe God will accept them just as they are. But Scripture nowhere supports this idea. God expects His true followers to grow, mature and bear fruit. What kind of fruit does God expect? And how do we produce it?

God's Word helps us identify our wrong practices and thoughts. We need to stir up the gift of God's Spirit each day within us to successfully fight against sin.



Booklet section Links...

<https://www.ncg.org/bible-study-tools/booklets/transforming-your-life-the-process-of-conversion-growing-to-spiritual-maturity>

## Growing to Spiritual Maturity – Part 1: 1 of 3

**Heb 6:1 NKJV** Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God,

**Eph 4:15 NRSV** But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,

**1Co 14:20 NKJV** Brethren, do not be children in understanding; however, in malice be babes, but in understanding be mature.

**1Jn 3:9 NCV** Those who are God's children do not continue sinning, because the new life from God remains in them. They are not able to go on sinning, because they have become children of God.

**1Jn 1:8 NKJV** If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**1Jn 3:9 The Message** People conceived and brought into life by God don't make a practice of sin. How could they? God's seed is deep within them, making them who they are. It's not in the nature of the God-begotten to practice and parade sin.

**1Co 6:18 NKJV** Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body.

**Eph 4:22-24 NIV** You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; 23 to be made new in the attitude of your minds; 24 and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

## Growing to Spiritual Maturity – Part 1: 2 of 3

**Rom 8:7 NKJV** Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.

**Rom 6:1-4 NKJV** What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? (2) Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? (3) Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? (4) Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

**Rom 6:16 NKJV** Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?

**Col 3:5 NIV - 5** Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.

**Heb 4:12 NKJV** For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

**2Ti 1:6 NKJV** Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands.

**2Co 4:16 NKJV** Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day.

## Growing to Spiritual Maturity – Part 1: 3 of 3

**Rom 8:13 NKJV** For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

**Rom 7:21 NKJV** I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good.

**Gal 2:20 NKJV** I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

**Tit 2:14 NKJV** who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.

**Eph 4:24 NKJV** and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

**Eph 4:25 NKJV** Therefore, putting away lying, "LET EACH ONE OF YOU SPEAK TRUTH WITH HIS NEIGHBOR," for we are members of one another.

**Eph 4:28 NKJV** Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need.

## Discussion... Growing to Spiritual Maturity – Part 1

- > Out with the old – IN WITH THE NEW! We are to focus ourselves on new godly behavior and must work to get rid of the old person that is hostile to God!!
- > We have to strive not to sin... there's no magic wand that will do it for us...
- > Striving to avoid sin involves resisting as well as fleeing temptation...
- > The law is STILL in effect... the definition of sin has not changed... it remains the transgression of the law.
- > Growing means striving to imitate Jesus Christ... we are to be putting on the new man... the goal being the stature of the fullness of Christ...
- > Our view of slavery is to be different from any slave of any time in human history... our master actually lives in us (day by day by our choosing to invite)... and we are to embrace the complete and utter impact of that...
- > We are to be willing Bond-Servants (Greek... doulos)...
- > In order to truly grow we must allow God's Word to truly cut into our inner being... in our very core. God's Word will define and help guide us to put out sin!
- > Whatever is going on in our life... God's Word is personalized to us to walk us through how to proceed in what we are facing. We must pray for God's Spirit to lead into His truth and guide us on how to respond appropriately. [Good places to go are the Psalms & Proverbs]
- > Jesus Christ is the atoning sacrifice for our sins and the sins of the whole world (**1 John 2:1-2**). [See insert on page 48 "A High Priest Eager To Help Us"]
- > Maturity has a component of dwelling on God's Word deeply... meditating on what the scripture relates and how that looks in action in our lives as various situations and concerns may arise.  
(**Psa 119:11** NKJV Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You.)
- > Bearing fruit is a critical part of spiritual growth!
- > We NEED Jesus Christ living in us to live a new Godly life!. (**Galatians 2:20 / Titus 2:14**)
- > 2Pe 1:5-8 NKJV But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, (6) to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, (7) to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. (8) For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

# Article / Reference / Sermon Recommendations (w/ url links):

## > UCG Sermon **“Introduction to Wisdom”**

By Robert Dick <http://www.ucg.org/sermons/introduction-to-wisdom>

## > UCG Sermon **“The Greatest Story Ever Told”**

By Kim Boykin <https://www.ucg.org/sermons/the-greatest-story-ever-told>

## > UCG Podcast Interview **“Apologetics For Apologetics”**

By Micah Gunn & Dr. Frank Turek <https://overcast.fm/+jgHcb4EZk>

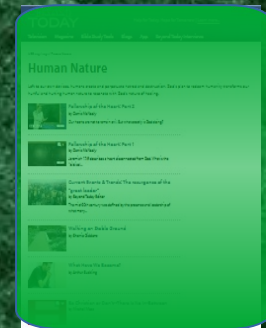
## > UCG Sermons **“What Does It Mean to Be Slaves of God?” 3 Parts** By Mr. Scott Ashley

<https://www.ucg.org/sermons/what-does-it-mean-to-be-slaves-of-god-part-1>

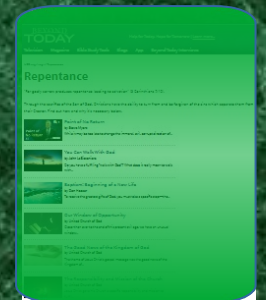
<https://www.ucg.org/sermons/what-does-it-mean-to-be-slaves-of-god-part-2>

<https://www.ucg.org/sermons/what-does-it-mean-to-be-slaves-of-god-part-3>

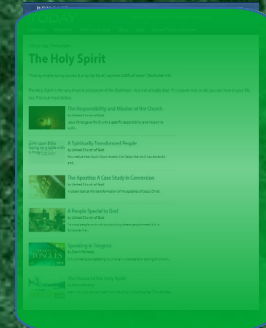
### TAG! You're IT! “Human Nature”



### TAG! You're IT! “Repentance”



### TAG! You're IT! “The Holy Spirit”





~ The End ~

& Spiritually Uplifting

FELLOWSHIP :-)