

January 15 & 16, 2022

Message: Pastor Doyle Jackson

Study: Pastor Doug McCoy

Grow 1: Misconceptions

I. Announcements & Prayer

- **This Weekend** – indoor worship services **Saturday @ 5pm** and **Sunday @ 9:20 and 11am**. You can listen in your car by tuning your radio to 95.3 FM or watch the livestream on Facebook or thechurchnextdoor.org. **Bring a neighbor! Invite a friend!**
- **Radio Show** – The **Your Next Step** radio show continues **Mon-Fri at 10:30am and 6pm** on **The Word 880 AM and 104.5 FM**. The podcast is also available on our website yournextstepnow.com as well as all podcasting services.
- **Small Group Leaders Afternoon of Encouragement** – Small group leaders are invited to meet in the chapel **Saturday, February 5th from Noon-4pm** for an afternoon of training, encouragement, and prayer. There will be food and some fun as well. All small group leaders, apprentices, hosts, members and anyone else interested in small groups are invited.
- **Deeper Life** – go deeper with God and His Word at Deeper Life **Sundays @5pm** in the sanctuary. Spend an hour with us learning about the Spirit, the Bible, and prayer.
- **Ladies Event** – All ladies are invited to meet with Jennifer in the sanctuary **Feb 7 @ 6:30pm** for pizza, worship, fellowship, and an overview of *Ruth*.

II. Ice Breaker Questions

1. What is the longest you have ever kept a New Year's resolution? How are you doing with your resolutions this year?
2. Have you ever had a garden? What are the steps to planting a garden? What are the steps to maintaining one?

III. Bible Study

Read **Psalm 1:1–6** (NIV)

Choices of a Blessed Life

1 Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers,

2 but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night.

3 That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither—whatever they do prospers.

4 Not so the wicked! They are like chaff that the wind blows away.

5 Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

6 For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked leads to destruction.

1. What in this psalm is telling us that spiritual growth is a great thing? What is telling us that spiritual growth is a choice we can make for ourselves? How are these truths affecting you right now?

Read **John 8:44** (NIV)

44 You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

2. Jesus is speaking to religious leaders here. What lies about spiritual growth do you think they heard from the devil and were believing? What lies about spiritual growth might we be hearing and believing? How can we escape those lies?

Read **Luke 8:11 & 15** (NIV)

11 "This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the word of God... 15 But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.

3. What does Jesus say here which suggests "a noble and good heart" is not something we just are or aren't but instead something we can choose to be and develop? What would enable us to develop that heart? (Hint: look up the weekend sermon notes on the app.)

Read **1 Peter 2:1-3** (NIV)

1 Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. 2 Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, 3 now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

4. How does "malice, deceit, etc." affect spiritual growth? How does "pure spiritual milk" affect it? What is God calling us to do here, and what is one way we can do it this week?

Read **1 Timothy 4:7-8** (Living Bible)

"... Spend your time and energy in the exercise of keeping spiritually fit. Bodily exercise is all right, but spiritual exercise is much more important and is a tonic for all you do. So exercise yourself spiritually and practice being a better Christian, because that will help you not only now in this life, but in the next life too."

5. What do you think about Paul's comparing the way the spirit is developed with the way the body is developed (that is, "exercise")? What are we doing to get the spiritual exercise we need? How would you exercise differently if people could see your spirit the way they can see your body?

Pray this prayer together:

"Jesus Christ, please come into my life. Make me the person You want me to be. Help me to become a spiritually growing person with Your help and Your strength."

6. Where do you see a need in your life to keep praying this prayer? What do you think this prayer can lead you into? When can you pray this prayer again this week?