

Growth Hacks for Christians

We all have areas where we want to grow and skill sets that we plan to improve upon. The truth is, if we don't have a plan for these areas, growth is not a certainty. Anytime you seek improvement or growth, it requires deliberate action. If you don't exercise and feed your muscles, they will begin to atrophy. This is true in your spiritual life as well as in your physical life.

- Before you begin a growth plan, it is important to take an honest assessment of where you are right now. In our spiritual life, the measuring stick is the Word of God; it isn't how other Christians appear to be growing.
- Look into scripture through personal study and discover areas where you need to put more emphasis. It's likely that the Holy Spirit has already put some thoughts in your mind before you even open your Bible.
- Just as a plant thrives with regular watering, our relationship with God flourishes through daily prayer, meditation, and scripture reading.

Once you've identified some areas you need to grow in, you can use these "growth hacks" to help you gain strength.

1. Cultivate a Daily Bible Study Routine

The Word of God helps you know right from wrong. These lines have become blurred by the cultural norms in our society. Knowledge and revelation in the Word will ensure that you are grounded and growing in the right direction.

James 4:8 (NLT) *Come close to God, and God will come close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, for your loyalty is divided between God and the world.*

Psalms 119:105 (NLT) *Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path.*

The more you feast on the Word, the hungrier you will get. The more you "eat" the Word, the more you will grow.

1 Peter 2:2 (NLT) *Like newborn babies, you must crave pure spiritual milk so that you will grow into a full experience of salvation. Cry out for this nourishment.*

Effective discipleship classes are a foolproof way to ensure that you are growing with the essential building blocks of your Christian faith.

2. Pray Specifically for the Areas That You Know You Need to Grow In

Matthew 6:6 *But when you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray to your Father in private. Then your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.*

Philippians 4:6-7 *Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.*

James 5:16 (KJV) *Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.*

The Greek translation of "availeth much" is ~ makes much power available.

3. Embrace Community and Fellowship

Just as coal or wood in a fireplace gathers to burn brightly together, we can uplift one another in our spiritual growth.

Hebrews 10:24-25 *Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do. But encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.*

We were not designed to grow in isolation.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 *Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble.*

4. Exercise Your Faith by Stepping Out of Your Comfort Zone

Hebrews 11:1 (NKJV) *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*

The more you engage the power of faith, the stronger your faith will be.

Romans 12:3 (NET) *For by the grace given to me, I say to every one of you not to think more highly of yourself than you ought to think, but to think with sober discernment, as God has distributed to each of you a measure of faith.*

No Christian is without faith. It requires faith to be born again (Romans 10:9, 10). However, many believers in Jesus never grow because they don't exercise their faith for anything more than salvation or the occasional crisis.

Consider the story of Peter and Jesus in Matthew 14. Peter would have never imagined that he could walk on water like Jesus did if he hadn't stepped out in faith.

Matthew 14:29 *"Yes, come," Jesus said. So Peter went over the side of the boat and walked on the water toward Jesus.*

Exercising faith is taking deliberate action to align your words, beliefs, and actions with the truth of God's Word.

2 Timothy 1:7 *For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.*

Isaiah 41:10 (NLT) *Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand.*

As we aim to grow in our Christian life, we will come up against obstacles and opportunities to test our commitment to growth. When these things come, they are designed to escalate your growth. Don't fail the test. Every test you fail, you will have to keep repeating.

Say to the obstacles:

Romans 8:31 (NKJV) *What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?*

Philippians 4:13 (NLT) *For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.*