

2020 Vision - Part 4
Process
01/26/2020

- Process
- We grow in our faith

James 1:2-3 (NIV)"Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance"

Colossians 2:1-7 (ESV) For I want you to know how great a struggle I have for you and for those at Laodicea and for all who have not seen me face to face, that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. I say this in order that no one may delude you with plausible arguments. For though I am absent in body, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the firmness of your faith in Christ.

Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

1st) Growth involves **STRUGGLE**

Colossians 2:1 (ESV) For I want you to know how great a struggle I have for you and for those at Laodicea and for all who have not seen me face to face,

- What was the struggle?

Col. 1:28b (ESV) to present everyone mature in Christ

Romans 8:29a (NIV) For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son,

- Becoming more like Jesus
- Temptation -

James 1:12 (LB) Happy is the man who doesn't give in and do wrong when he is tempted, for afterwards he will get as his reward the crown of life that God has promised those who love him.

- Every temptation is an opportunity
- While the enemy wants to use it to destroy you God wants to use it to develop you
- You'll never outgrow temptation

2 Cor. 2:11 (NLT) We are very familiar with his evil schemes

How Temptation works:

A) **DESIRE**

- We have an enemy that watches us -

B) **DOUBT**

- Doubt God's Word about your situation
- Is this really wrong?
- If you have to ask - then it is

Heb. 3:12 (CEV) My friends, watch out! Don't let evil thoughts or doubts make any of you turn from the living God.

C) **DECEPTION**

Genesis 3:1-5 (CEV) The snake was sneakier than any of the other wild animals that the Lord God had made...He told us not to eat fruit from that tree or even to touch it. If we do, we will die." "No, you won't!" the snake replied. "God understands what will happen on the day you eat fruit from that tree. You will see what you have done, and you will know the difference between right and wrong, just as God does."

D) **DISOBEDIENCE**

- What began is an idea is birthed into behavior

What to do:

Counter the **THOUGHT**

1 Cor. 10:13 (NLT) Remember the temptations that come into your life are no different from what others experience

Understand your **WEAKNESS**

- Ask yourself - Where am I most tempted?
- What time of day? Who am I with? Am I alone?
- Prepare yourself to avoid those situations
- You don't put chocolate cake in the fridge when you're on a diet

1 Peter (CEV) Be on your guard and stay awake. Your enemy, the devil, is like a roaring lion, sneaking around to find someone to attack.

Call on **JESUS**

Heb. 4:16(NIV) Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

- Help!

2nd) Growth involves **FOCUS**.

Colossians 2:4 (ESV) I say this in order that no one may delude you with plausible arguments.

- Drift
- The church was drifting from the finished work of Jesus to self-centered righteousness
- Jesus

Keep God first. If you do that, if you just focus on God and keeping Him first, then everything else will just take care of itself. Do everything for Him.

- Whatever we focus our attention on will dominate our thoughts
- Having talent without focus is like being an octopus on roller skates. You can be sure that there will be plenty of movement, but you won't know in what direction it will be."

4 Thoughts on Focus:

A) Focus on your **STRENGTHS**

B) Focus on **TODAY**

- If you're always thinking about tomorrow, then you'll never get anything done today.

Matt. 6:34 (NCV) So don't worry about tomorrow, because tomorrow will have its own worries. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

C) Focus on the **PROCESS**

- Anytime you concentrate on the difficulty of the work at hand instead of its results or rewards, you'll likely to become discouraged.
- Dwell on the difficulties too long and you'll start to develop self-pity instead of self-discipline, and your attention will become scattered instead of focused."

D) Focus on your **PRIORITIES**

- We can't do it all

3rd) Growth involves **GRATITUDE**

Col. 2:7 (ESV) rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

- The ability to assign value to something is one of the rarest and most precious gifts in the world!

Grateful people learn think daily about life's **BLESSINGS**

- Thankfulness is intimately connected to thoughtfulness

Grateful people learn to love those **AROUND** them

Philippians 1:3(NLT) "Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God"

Grateful people learn to live in the **PRESENT**

- Destination disease causes a person to always search for happiness somewhere in the future.