

GOSPEL NINJA

GROWING IN CHRIST

The sower and the seed

Matthew 13:18-23 [Jesus said,] “Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: ¹⁹ When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown [or planted] in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path. ²⁰ The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. ²¹ But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. ²² The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful. ²³ But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.” NIV

Bible Ninjas

Judges 20:16 Among all these soldiers there were seven hundred select troops who were left-handed, each of whom could sling a stone at a hair and not miss.

2 Samuel 23:8-12 These are the names of David’s mighty warriors: Josheb-Basshebeth...raised his spear against eight hundred men, whom he killed in one encounter...⁹ Next to him was Eleazar... Eleazar stood his ground and struck down the Philistines till his hand grew tired and froze to the sword... ¹¹ Next to him was Shammah...¹² ...Shammah took his stand in the middle of the field. He defended it and struck the Philistines down, and the Lord brought about a great victory.

1 Chronicles 12:14 These Gadites were army commanders; the least was a match for a hundred, and the greatest for a thousand. NIV

1 Corinthians 16:13 Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong.

Growing in Christ Review:

Salvation

- Saved from something.
- Saved by someone (not ourselves)
- Saved to something

Assurance

Jesus, the good shepherd, is fighting for you.

Jesus

Not just about having the exact right doctrine of Jesus, but being a follower of Jesus, and letting Jesus lead your life.

Bible

The goal is not just to read it and know it, but to know God and his ways better.

Prayer

Pray relationally.

Which of these is most critical?

Salvation

2 Peter 1:5-9 For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; ⁶ and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; ⁷ and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. ⁸ For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ But whoever does not have them is nearsighted and blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their past sins. NIV

The key to growth:

What it doesn't say:

When we remember our forgiveness

We view ourselves correctly.

Romans 12:3 For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. NIV

The focus is on Jesus.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God?...¹¹ And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. NIV

Hebrews 12:1-2 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. NIV

We want to respond in love (instead of duty)

Luke 7:47 [Jesus said,] "I tell you, her sins—and they are many—have been forgiven, so she has shown me much love. But a person who is forgiven little shows only little love." NLT

Become a gospel ninja.

2 Timothy 2:1 You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. NIV