

GROW

AN SMBS SERIES

Lesson 4 – The Right Help Part 2



When we come to spiritual growth, it can be helpful to understand the different roles the members of the Trinity play. The Spirit is often viewed as the major agent of change (1 Peter 1:2; 2 Corinthians 3:18), but the Father and the Son participate as well. Knowing that God is totally and completely invested in your spiritual growth will both encourage you and help you to better cooperate with what He is up to.

WE NEED THE _____ HELP

The Father's role in sanctification could be summed up in one word: sovereignty. The Father's foreknowledge is behind election (1 Peter 1:2; Ephesians 1:4); he sends the Spirit and the Son (John 14:26; 20:21); and once saved he directs the circumstances of our lives to grow us.

1. The Father sovereignly _____ us (Hebrews 12:5-11)

- God's discipline is _____ (vv 5-9)

- God's discipline is _____ (vv 10-11)

It's not good enough for us that God be well intentioned in his discipline. We need to know that God's painful program in our lives will ultimately work. Hebrews affirms that God's painful discipline will ultimately result in sharing in God's holiness, in "the peaceful fruit of righteousness." Our fathers did the best they could, but God disciplines perfectly.

2. The Father sovereignly _____ us (John 15:1-2)

When a gardener prunes, he removes dead branches and excess that keeps the plant from growing at full potential. The result is that the plant can now better produce because it's energy isn't being wasted.

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God's plan for believers is that they live fruitful, productive lives (Phil 1:10-11). In order to do that, however, he must help us clean up our lives so that we will be able to serve him (2 Timothy 2:21).

3. The Father works everything for _____ (Romans 8:28-30)

- God's purpose is _____ (v 29).
- God's purpose is his _____ (v 29).
- God's purpose is ultimately _____ (v 30).

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1. Jesus _____ biblical change.

Bringing God glory means reflecting God's character in such a way that people look at us and understand a little better what God looks like (1 Peter 1:16; Ephesians 5:1). So what does God look like? There is much that God is that we could never be. At the final supper, Christ said "whoever has seen me has seen the Father" (John 14:9). Hebrews describes Christ as "the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature" (Hebrews 1:3). Paul describes Christ as the "image of the invisible God" (Colossians 1:15). Christ models perfectly for us what it looks like for a human to behave as God would. It is no surprise then, that Scripture tells us we should be like Christ. (Romans 8:29 cf Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 3:13; Hebrews 12:1-2; 1 Peter 2:21-22).

2. Jesus _____ biblical change.

Everything that God gives us to change us he gives us because we are now "in Christ" (Ephesians 1:3). Because we are in Christ, first of all, we have eternal life (1 John 5:11), having been elected, adopted, redeemed, and sealed (Ephesians 1:3-14) because we are in Christ (Ephesians 1:4-5). It is in him that we obtain a righteous standing before God that we didn't earn and don't deserve (2 Corinthians 5:21). In Christ is also the grace we need to be strong and live for God (2 Timothy 2:1). Over and over we are told that the good things God gives us he gives us because we are in Christ (1 Corinthians 1:30; Colossians 2:9).

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