

Growing and Developing Spiritually

Dear Daily Devotional Reader,

It is God's desire that every person on earth receive Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. He also desires that each believer grow and develop spiritually.

In order for Christians to grow and develop spiritually, they need a minister of the gospel to teach and feed them on God's Word, as well as train them spiritually to become disciples of Christ. Ephesians 4:11-13: **And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:**

Many dear Christians today are **...tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine...** (Ephesians 4:14), and consequently they are unaware of their spiritual weakness. As Jesus traveled around and taught the Word of God throughout the cities and towns, He was moved with compassion, seeing that the people fainted and were spiritually weak. This was because they had no God-called minister to feed or teach them God's Word.

And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd. Matthew 9:35, 36

It's very important that each one of us, as believers ..be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might (Ephesians 6:10).

We need to obey and serve the Lord. We need to fulfill the plan that God has for our lives without letting anyone or anything hinder us from walking in the perfect will of God, and thereby stifling our spiritual walk.

In other words, the devil will do all that he can to try to hinder you in your spiritual development. He will use anyone, or anything, to try to accomplish his goal of keeping you from following the Lord. He will use a friend, family member, husband, wife, even a priest or minister to try to get you off the path of following God.

As 1 Peter 5:8 says, **...your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:**

Therefore, we must remain ever vigilant and stay built up in prayer to hear from the Lord and follow His direction for our lives.

In other daily devotions, I'll be teaching you the importance of having a God called minister, conviction in the church, and finding your place in the body of Christ.

Please read all of them, and also, please prayerfully consider what the Word of God has to say in the scriptures and in the teachings that I'll be sharing with you.

Remember, God wants us to be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. He wants us to grow and develop spiritually to where we can take authority over the devil in Jesus' Name and be led by the Holy Spirit, as well as minister effectively to others.

God does not want us to stay as babies, but fully mature children of God, ruling and reigning in this life in Christ Jesus, so we can fulfill the Great Commission: **And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover. So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of**

God. And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen. Mark 16:15-20

I look forward to sharing with you more tomorrow. If you're filled with the Holy Spirit, I would also like to ask you to spend an hour praying in tongues for our nation and our leaders each day according to Ephesians 6:18: **Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;**

1 Timothy 2:1-4: **I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.**

Romans 8:26-28: **Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God. And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.**

We, as the body of Christ, have an awesome responsibility to stand in the gap for our nation and get the gospel out to the world. Remember, we have authority over the devil, not he over us, in Jesus Name!

I look forward to sharing more with you tomorrow.

Remember, God wishes above all things that you prosper and be in health, even as your soul prospers (3 John 2).

Your Word of faith pastor,

Pastor Jesse Rich

**Jesse Rich Ministries
P.O. Box 237170
New York, NY 10023**

PHONE: (212) 501-7999

Email: www.JesseRichMinistries.com/contact.htm

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