

## What It Takes To Build A Strong Christian

1. We have all met individuals that we felt were strong Christians; these were people we admired because they seem to carry with them a little of God himself. Even some who do not profess to be Christians are able to identify "real" or godly Christians. List some of the qualities you have noticed in such strong and growing Christians:
  
2. What do you think: The people who act like strong Christians, are they born with these qualities, or do they somehow "earn" the right to them from God, or are they trained to act that way, or do they simply experience a miracle that automatically makes them that way when they become Christians?:
  
3. In the following passages, what does the Bible say accounts for the spirit strength and dynamic faith of growing Christians?:
  - Acts 20:32
  
  - I Peter 2:1-3
  
  - Ephesians 4:11-16
  
  - II Peter 3:17,18
  
  - Job 17:9

- Hebrews 6:1

- I Thessalonians 3:9,10

4. Consider the examples of growing spiritual strength and faith in each of the following. What things do you think were going on in their lives that explain why they were growing:

For each of the following verses answer...

*Who is growing? What is the evidence of their growth?*

- Luke 1:80

- Luke 2:40

- II Thes. 1:3

5. Read Ephesians 3:17-19. What is the role of love (i.e., agapé love, the love that flows from God, love that has no limits or conditions) to the whole process of becoming stronger Christians?
6. Read I John 2:27-29 (NIV). What is the role of the filling of God's presence (i.e., the filling of His Spirit or the abiding presence of Christ within a person) in the life of the growing, strong Christian?

## 7. This week's focus on care and prayer...

Most Christians want to grow and become stronger in their faith and commitment. Many struggle with becoming strong because they don't know how, or they feel guilty about past failures, or they are afraid of what it might cost them (such as certain pleasures, friendships, leisure time, etc.) or they feel too weak to even start.

Everyone has felt one of these pressures at one time or another. Can you identify a pressure that hinders your growth? Can you share it with your group? (These things are rather personal so don't get unnerved if you can't share at this time.)

Consider some of the things that the Lord might be saying to you about growing. Would you say "Yes" to growth -- even if it may seem difficult?

Is He speaking to you about one of the areas we have studied in this lesson as a starting point? Would you be willing to say "Yes" to this area?