
Table of Contents

Volume 1

Chapter 1: Making Progress in My Walk With God	1
Understanding Biblical Growth	1
<i>Chapter 1, Lesson 1, Leaving Childhood Behind</i>	3
Growing Up in God	3
Why Some Christians Do Not Grow Up in God	4
What This Study Entails	6
<i>Chapter 1, Lesson 2, Characteristics of Godly Growth, Part I</i>	13
The God of the Living, Not the Dead	13
Spiritual Growth and Progress	13
What Growth and Progress Are Not	15
How Do We Grow or Make Progress?	16
<i>Chapter 1, Lesson 3, Characteristics of Godly Growth, Part II</i>	23
Growth Should Be Visible	23
Growth Should Be Transparent	25
How We Know When We Are Making Spiritual Progress	26
Chapter 2: How the Bible Defines Spiritual Maturity	31
Biblical Principles of Spiritual Maturity	31
<i>Chapter 2, Lesson 1, Maturity and Purpose</i>	33
The Relationship Between Maturity and Purpose	33
The Primary Characteristics of Spiritual Maturity	33
Does God Expect Every Believer to Mature?	37
<i>Chapter 2, Lesson 2, Maturity and Responsibility</i>	45
The Connection Between Maturity and Responsibility	45
Shouldering the Responsibilities God Has Given Us	46
No Other Foundation	47
Preparing Our Hearts for the Word	48
Chapter 3: Godly Emotional Maturity	55
The Connection Between Emotional Maturity and Spiritual Maturity	55
<i>Chapter 3, Lesson 1, Faith and Emotions</i>	57
Living by Faith or Living by Emotions	57
Defining Godly Emotional Maturity	58
Setting a Framework for Developing Emotional Maturity	59
God's Perspective on Emotions	59
<i>Chapter 3, Lesson 2, Repairing the Foundation of Our Faith, Part I</i>	65
Am I Mad at God?	65
Is God Arbitrary?	66
<i>Chapter 3, Lesson 3, Repairing the Foundation of Our Faith, Part II</i>	73
Is God Good?	73
Mature Believers Know the Difference Between Good and Evil	77

<i>Chapter 3, Lesson 4, Repairing the Foundation of Our Faith, Part III</i>	81
Is God in Control?	81
Living in This World	86
<i>Chapter 3, Lesson 5, How Shall We Then Live?</i>	91
How We Choose to Respond	91
Grounded and Settled	97
<i>Chapter 3, Lesson 6, Emotional Healing vs. Emotional Maturity</i>	101
A Season of Healing	101
<i>Chapter 3, Lesson 7, Physical and Emotional Maturity</i>	111
Stages of Physical and Emotional Growth	111
Revisited: Is God in Control?	114
The End of Choice	115
Chapter 4: Led By the Spirit	121
<i>Chapter 4, Lesson 1, The Person and Role of the Holy Spirit</i>	123
God's Purpose in Sending the Holy Spirit	123
Recognizing the Voice of God	124
Where We Hear God's Voice	126
<i>Chapter 4, Lesson 2, The Voice and Leading of the Holy Spirit</i>	133
What the Voice of God Sounds Like	133
Confidence in the Voice of God	135
<i>Chapter 4, Lesson 3, Competing Voices in Our Spiritual Lives</i>	139
The Voice of the Holy Spirit vs. the Voice of the Accuser	139
Accept Conviction; Reject Condemnation	141
<i>Chapter 4, Lesson 4, Feeling Right About Righteousness</i>	149
The Doctrine of Righteousness	149
The Spirit of Sonship	154

Volume 2

Chapter 5: By a New and Living Way	163
<i>Chapter 5, Lesson 1, He Who Promised Is Faithful</i>	165
The New and Living Way vs. the Old and Dead Way	165
The Law and Righteousness	168
<i>Chapter 5, Lesson 2, Planted in the New and Living Way</i>	175
The Fruit of the New and Living Way	175
The Fruit of the Old and Dead Way	177
<i>Chapter 5, Lesson 3, Mindsets of the Old and Dead Way, Part I</i>	181
Yes, But I Never Did That	181
<i>Chapter 5, Lesson 4, Mindsets of the Old and Dead Way, Part II</i>	189
It's Not Right! It's Not Fair!	189
<i>Chapter 5, Lesson 5, Mindsets of the Old and Dead Way, Part III</i>	197
If I Can't Do That, Then You Can't Do That!	197
<i>Chapter 5, Lesson 6, The New and Living Way in Action</i>	203
Mature Believers vs. Religious People	203
How Faith "Works"	205

Chapter 6: How to Belong to a Church—and Love It.....	213
<i>Chapter 6, Lesson 1, Belonging.....</i>	<i>215</i>
The Longing for Belonging	215
Identifying the Church.....	216
Identifying My Church.....	221
<i>Chapter 6, Lesson 2, Placed and Planted</i>	<i>227</i>
God's Purpose for Placing and Planting Us in a Church.....	228
<i>Chapter 6, Lesson 3, Remaining Planted and Becoming Fruitful, Part I</i>	<i>237</i>
Loving and Staying in Relationship	237
Overcoming Obstacles	238
<i>Chapter 6, Lesson 4, Remaining Planted and Becoming Fruitful, Part II.....</i>	<i>247</i>
Dealing With Offense in the Church.	247
Our Relationship With Our Church Leadership	248
Our Behavior Toward Other Churches, Ministers, and Ministries	249
When Leaving a Church is Appropriate.....	251
Chapter 7: Winning the Spiritual War.....	255
The Overcoming Life	255
<i>Chapter 7, Lesson 1, The Spiritual Realm, Part I.....</i>	<i>257</i>
Establishing Biblical Understanding of the Spiritual Realm.....	257
Biblical Facts About the Spiritual Realm.....	260
<i>Chapter 7, Lesson 2, The Spiritual Realm, Part II.....</i>	<i>265</i>
More Biblical Facts About the Spiritual Realm	265
Take Courage!	269
<i>Chapter 7, Lesson 3, The Weapons of Our Warfare, Part I.....</i>	<i>273</i>
Defining Spiritual Warfare.....	273
The Spoken Word of God.....	274
<i>Chapter 7, Lesson 4, The Weapons of Our Warfare, Part II.....</i>	<i>287</i>
Casting Down Imaginations.....	287
<i>Chapter 7, Lesson 5, The Weapons of Our Warfare, Part III</i>	<i>293</i>
The Shield of Faith.....	293
Praise and Worship	296
<i>Chapter 7, Lesson 6, The Promise of the Father, Part I.....</i>	<i>303</i>
The Gift God Promised.....	303
Filled with the Power to Do Battle.....	303
<i>Chapter 7, Lesson 7, The Promise of the Father, Part II.....</i>	<i>313</i>
Untangling the Gift From the Gifts	313
The Manifestation of the Holy Spirit as a Spiritual Weapon.	316
<i>Chapter 7, Lesson 8, Your Personal Pentecost</i>	<i>323</i>
The First Pentecost.....	323
The Outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the Recorded Early Church.....	324
How to Receive Your Personal Pentecost	330

Volume 3

Chapter 8: Godly Social and Civic Responsibility	341
Affecting the Spirit and Culture of This Present Age	341
<i>Chapter 8, Lesson 1, The Differences that Distinguish</i>	343
Different for a Purpose.....	343
In the World But Not of the World.....	345
The Spirit of This Present Age.....	346
Defining Worldview	347
The Effect of a Wrong Worldview	348
<i>Chapter 8, Lesson 2, Competing Worldviews and Their Outcomes</i>	355
Compassion, Guilt, and Atonement.....	355
The Blessing and Favor of God.....	358
The Mission Jesus Has Given Us.....	361
<i>Chapter 8, Lesson 3, Salty Salt and Bright Light, Part I</i>	369
Light in a Dark Place.....	369
The Principle of the Tipping Point.....	369
<i>Chapter 8, Lesson 4, Salty Salt and Bright Light, Part II</i>	379
Know the Issues	379
Act on the Issues	379
Outrage Is Not Action	382
Act to Save Lives—Both Now and in Eternity.	384
A Note to Pastors and Other Church Leaders.....	385
Chapter 9: Outrageous Freedom!	
Freedom From Bad Habits and Addictive Behaviors	389
The Ultimate Price for Complete Liberty.....	389
<i>Chapter 9, Lesson 1, From Inside to Outside</i>	391
Setting the Stage For the Great Escape.....	391
How Important Are Our Thoughts?.....	392
The Connection Between Thoughts, Words, and Actions.....	393
Careless and Willful Sins of the Mouth.....	394
The Pain of Change.....	396
<i>Chapter 9, Lesson 2, The Spiritual Effects of Addictive Behaviors</i>	405
Recognizing Addictive Behaviors	405
Free to Have and Enjoy a Healthy, Happy Life	408
The “Need” Component of Addiction.	409
Where Addictive Behaviors Control Us, God Does Not.	410
The Moment of Miracle: When Breakthrough Happens	412
Assessing the State of Our Legitimate Needs.....	415
Legitimate Needs Assessment (LNA).....	415
<i>How to Begin a Relationship With God</i>	421
Religion vs. Relationship	421
<i>Chapter 9, Lesson 3, Bringing Truth to Bear on Our Lives</i>	425
The Power of Truth	425
A First Look at Our LNA Scores.	427

<i>Chapter 9, Lesson 4, Roots, Fruits, and the Lies That Bind</i>	431
How Roots, Fruits, Lies, and Strongholds Are Connected.....	431
The Compounding Power of Lies.....	432
Wounds and Offences.....	433
Examining Our Big Buts.....	434
Lies and Our Legitimate Needs.....	436
Jesus Is Not Enough.....	439
Our Legitimate Need for Godly Balance.....	439
<i>Chapter 9, Lesson 5, Temptation, Lies, and Reasoning, Part I</i>	443
The Commonplace Nature of Temptation and Lies.....	443
Dealing With the Offenses of and Lies of Childhood.....	445
Establishing a Healthy “No”.....	447
Identifying the Lies I Believe and Act on.....	449
<i>Chapter 9, Lesson 6, Temptation, Lies, and Reasoning, Part II</i>	453
Watch Out! Sin Is Deceitful.....	453
Lies and Reasoning.....	453
Jesus As Our Focus.....	456
The Rest of God.....	458
Chapter 10: The Joy and Triumph of Aging Well in God	459
What We Leave Behind—Starting Now.....	459
<i>Chapter 10, Lesson 1, Finishing Strong</i>	463
The Strong Finisher.....	463
Starting Strong or Finishing Strong.....	464
Plan To Finish Strong!.....	466
<i>Chapter 10, Lesson 2, The Example of the Elder Saints of God</i>	470
Planning for Retirement.....	470
God’s Plan for Passing on Knowledge, Wisdom, and Spiritual Insight.....	471
Reasons Why We Finish Weak.....	473
Drawing or Shrinking Back.....	474
Honor and Respect.....	475
<i>Chapter 10, Lesson 3, The Roles, Responsibilities, and Authority of the Elder Saints of God</i>	479
The Testimony of Long Years in God’s Service.....	479
Leadership.....	480
<i>Chapter 10, Lesson 4, God’s Plan for My Joy and Triumph in Him</i>	483
Me? A Patriarch or a Matriarch?.....	483
Sowing Seed into Future Generations.....	484

This Page Intentionally Left Blank.