

GOD SPEAKS

IN ORDER TO BE A CHRISTIAN, YOU HAVE TO BE FOCUSED ON GROWING SPIRITUALLY.

1. _____ OUR EYES ON JESUS.

²looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls. (Hebrews 12:2-3)

2. _____ OPPOSITION.

²My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, ³knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. ⁴But let patience have *its* perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. (James 1:2-4)

3. THE _____ OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH.

You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore. (Psalm 16:11)

DIVING DEEPER

- 1. How can we practically keep our focus on Jesus amidst the distractions and challenges of daily life? (Matthew 14:29-31)**
- 2. Share a personal experience where you faced opposition or challenges in your faith journey. How did you endure, and what did you learn from it? (James 1:2-4)**
- 3. In what ways have you experienced joy and growth in your spiritual journey? How has this impacted your relationship with God and others? (Psalm 16:11)**
- 4. What practical steps can we take as a group to support and encourage one another in our spiritual growth and perseverance? (Hebrews 10:24-25)**

GOD INVITES

My dear brothers and sisters, we've learned that spiritual growth isn't a sprint, it's a marathon. It's not about how quickly we can reach the finish line, but rather, it's about the endurance, the perseverance we display along the way. It's about **keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. He is our model, our example. He endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and now sits at the right hand of the throne of God.**

So, what does this mean for us? How do we apply this to our lives? **It's simple, yet challenging. We are called to be more like Jesus. We are called to endure, to persevere, to keep our eyes fixed on Him, even when the going gets tough. This is the essence of spiritual growth.**

In the coming weeks, I charge you to be more like Jesus. When you face opposition, remember His endurance. When you encounter challenges, remember His perseverance. When you feel like giving up, remember His unwavering faith. Let His example inspire you, motivate you, and guide you towards spiritual growth.