

"In the beginning  
was the Word,  
and the Word was  
with God, and the  
Word was God."  
~John 1:1

The Lord's Flock  
**Growth**  
DIGEST  
PASTORAL GROWTH SERIES



## **“Important Questions That We Have To Ask Ourselves On Our Next Birthday”**

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***“...until we all attain to the unity of faith and knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the extent of the full stature of Christ,...” (Ephesians 4:13)***

**Let us ask ourselves the following important questions on our next birthday:**

### **1. Is my relationship with God healthy?**

**When we made Jesus Christ our personal Lord and Savior, we experienced the excitement, zealotness, and blazing fire within us. As years passed, did our relationship with God become much deeper or did it not?**

***“I know your works, your labor, and your endurance, and that you cannot tolerate the wicked; you have tested those who called themselves apostles but are not, and discovered that they are impostors. Moreover, you have endurance and have suffered for my name, and you have not grown weary. Yet I hold this against you: you have lost the love you had at first. Realize how far you have fallen....”***  
(Revelations 2:2-5 )

**Our birthdays provide a lot of opportunities to enlarge our vision in becoming Christ-like. Another year in age does not equal another year in growth. Have we been growing in maturity? The Lord always *looks into our heart.* (1 Samuel 16:7)**

**Is our heart still overwhelmed with the love of the Lord that His love brings us to tears just like on the first day of our renewal; or, has our spiritual growth become stagnant?**

**We can never say that we already know everything when it comes to the Word of God. Every teaching, even though it has already been heard several times, still gives different reflection and insight to every person every time it is heard again.**

**As we grow old in age, do we recognize well the voice of God from the voice of the enemy and the voice of the world? Do we have unwavering faith in God despite trials in our life? We should know the kind of relationship we have with the Lord from our life experiences.**

**2. Is our relationship with others characterized with growth?**

***“You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and will all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.”*** (Luke 10:27)

**Does our relationship with others preserve unity or cause division? Do we sow discord instead of peace? “Do we listen to gossips instead of allowing our minds to keep doing what we *have learned and received and heard and seen in Christ.*”** (Philippians 4:9)

***“Do nothing out of selfishness or out of vainglory; rather, humbly regard others as more important than yourselves, each looking out not for his own interests, but also for those of others.”*** (Philippians 2:3-4)

**Do we have compassion for those who are lost and for those who still have not known the Lord? We should witness to others the goodness of the Lord.**

**3. Is Christ challenging me a radical incremental change rather than just a simple change?**

**Can we always choose Christ over all else? Can we give the Lord always the best of us? Are we ready to give up for the Lord things that matter most to us because we are radical followers of Christ?**

**In each year that we age, do we mature and progress as Christians? Are we always excited to serve the Lord and to follow what He says?**

**What impossible things can we do to help revolutionize our contribution to the Kingdom of God and to be strong in the Lord with His mighty power?**

**4. Are my barns too big?**

***“Otherwise, you might say to yourselves, ‘It is my own hand that has obtained for me this wealth’. Remember then, it is the Lord, your God, who gives you the power to acquire wealth....”*** (Deuteronomy 8:17-18)

**The Lord wants those who are longing to be rich in this world not to make mammon their God** (1 Timothy 6:17). When we begin to love money more than Him, we fail to remember that the source of all riches is our Lord. Money is not our salvation. Yes, we need money. But if money becomes our God, our souls will be ruined because *the love of money is the root of all evils*. (1 Timothy 6:10)

**If the Lord is making us wealthy, we should *do good, be rich in good works, be generous, ready to share*** (1 Timothy 6:18), **that we will continue to be the Lord's vessel of His blessings**. We have to share our financial blessings to others every time we are blessed by the Lord.

*“Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given you besides.”* (Matthew 6:33)

**5. How can I simplify the physical tasks in my life so I have time to do what is generally important?**

**Let us list down and analyze the differing physical tasks in our life. Let us prioritize the important ones and avoid those unnecessary.**

**7. What do I want to be 10 years from now?**

**With guidance from the Holy Spirit, let us plan and adopt what we want to be ten years from today. This plan can serve as our ten-year goal in our life.**

**6. Have I got rid of my vices?**

**As long as we have the fervent desire to change and if we completely surrender ourselves to the Lord, we will be able to succeed in overcoming little by little all our vices.**

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