

## **GOOD >> BETTER >> BEST: (Part-two of a three-part study)**

In our last segment, we concluded by emphasizing the importance of transitioning from the good we have experienced in our conversion to Christ to something better by means of the process known as progressive sanctification. Just as Jesus spent the early years of His earthly life growing into mature manhood (Luke 2:52), so we must reach a certain level of spiritual maturity in order to move beyond the salvation experience into something better in our everyday Christian life. The teaching of the New Testament throughout, insists upon such growth for every believer. Two negative examples of failing to do so are mentioned in passages such as Hebrews 5:11-14 and 1 Corinthians 3:1-3. However, there is also positive encouragement given in Colossians 2:6-7 and 2 Peter 3:18, where we read this –

**“Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude.”**

**“. . . but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.”**

Spiritual growth is not an end in itself but a means to an end. It transitions us from what is good to that which is better in God’s plan and purpose for our life. What does the “better” consist of? In a word, SERVICE. Spiritual growth qualifies us to serve our Savior in a meaningful manner. This doesn’t mean that a brand-new believer can’t be used of God. Quite often, they can bear a very effective witness to their conversion experience on behalf of family and friends.

But beyond that, it is in the context of a local church ministry where we develop a consistent Christian lifestyle, which in turn is noticed by fellow Christians. This is where spiritual gifts are discovered and used for the benefit of the body of Christ to which you belong. But if we are to serve Christ effectively with the spiritual gifts we have been given, the use of those gifts must be coupled with a strong measure of spiritual growth. In other words, giftedness must be matched with the development of Christ-like character. This is that “better” realm, where serving your Savior results in the furthering of His cause in your sphere of influence.

Just as Christ did not come to be served but to serve, the better life that God has in store for each of us will involve a commitment to serving others. More often than not, as your fellow Christians notice that maturity and commitment which has been developing in you, opportunities for service will be presented. When they are, be ready to embrace this transition from the good to the better.