

# **GROW DEEP**

— THE DAILY DEVOTION: 10 —



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## “Grow Deep”

### 1Peter 1:6-8

*“6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, 8 whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory.”*

There are many periods and times in our life that God places us in tests to refine our faith and walk with Him. God is looking at our hearts and is testing the depths of our relationship with Him, “the genuineness of your faith.” He is looking to see what our actions will be when times are not easy, to see if we are willing to go deep with Him. In times of drought, trees send their roots to dive deep to find those places of deep water. The same goes for us as we are placed in times of testing and trials. It’s when things get hard that we must dive deeper into our relationship with Jesus through faith.

What areas is the Lord calling you to go deep in?

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So how do we grow deep? How do we actually move into a place of deep relationship with the Lord when we are being tested? To start off with, it’s important to know that the test is an open book test and we are allowed to ask the administrator for help - Hallelujah!

Let’s take a look at Deuteronomy 8:3 *“So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD.”*

One of God’s purposes for bringing the children of Israel into the wilderness was to separate them from the things that filled their hearts outside of the Lord. Even though God was 100% taking care of and providing for them in this desert place by feeding them manna, the children of Israel still hungered. In Exodus, the children of Israel longed for the meat pots from Egypt, the meat they ate in slavery and bondage. Their hearts found comfort in things outside of God, and thus that is what their hearts longed for, instead of longing for Him. They were unwilling to grow deep with the Lord by putting the old things aside and moving into new, unknown territory with Him.

See, God did not want to immediately bring the children of Israel into the promised land because He first wanted to meet them and fellowship with them and be worshipped by them. But instead of rejoicing and worshiping the Lord during the time in the desert, the children of Israel complained and distanced themselves from the Lord and His promises. Knowing that we are subject to the same temptations as the children of Israel, we can learn from their example and choose to grow deep instead of rejecting the Lord.

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Let's talk about some steps we can take to grow deep with our Father, His son Jesus, and His Holy Spirit.

First: fellowship and communion with the Holy Spirit is the first step to growing deep. All of God's promises are found in Jesus, so the closer we get with Him the more of His promises are fulfilled in our lives. So spend time in prayer with Him. Talk to Him, as many of us are alone just talk with Him, ask Him questions and speak to Him. Take this time to commune with the Lord and fellowship with Him.

What do you think it means to have communion with Holy Spirit?

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Second: rejoice and give thanks as God tests us. Thank Him for His promises in your life. Many times promises are fulfilled in our lives and we never see it. For example, let's think about protection. I recently spoke to a friend of mine who works in the medical field. His superiors notified him that he came into contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19. However, it had already been over the 13 days when he was notified. He had zero symptoms and has zero symptoms to this day. God protected him without him ever seeing it or knowing it. Many times that is exactly what is happening in our lives. So we can count it all joy even if we don't think He is fulfilling His word.

What do you need to rejoice in?

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What works that He has done are coming to Light that were once hidden?

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Third: worship Him. Pull out the old phone or computer and just put on worship to praise Him and glorify Him. No matter what is happening in our world, Jesus is King and He is deserving of all of our worship. Spend time glorifying Him.

What songs does He want to hear today?

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What songs do you need to hear today?

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**Fourth:** write it down. Journal and write down everything, from the tests and trials, to the answers to prayer. Be a modern-day scribe and write down all that the Lord is doing in your life.

What is He showing you?

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What has He been speaking over you?

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**Fifth:** ask Jesus to show you what areas of your life He wants to work on. Let Him heal wounds, build you up, encourage you, correct you, love on you, and deepen your trust in Him. Be vulnerable with the Father. His desire is to love you and be with you. This is actually one of the main purposes of tests and wilderness times: it is to heal us and allow Him to remove all that stands in between our relationship with Him.

What areas has the Lord been showing you to work on prior to this test?

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What new areas in your heart has He been revealing to you?

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