



BIBLE ENGAGEMENT

7 practices that should always be growing in a Christian's life are self-denial, daily prayer, Bible engagement, 360 faith, Spirit led, mission minded, and healthy community. Choose ONE you need to improve and work on it a while.

I NEED GROWTH IN BIBLE ENGAGEMENT

Bible engagement is more than just reading, it means hearing what God is saying to us when we read. It's learning to see all of life through the things God teaches us in the Bible. Learn to understand and live what you read. That is why the Bible says, "But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves." James 1:22 NLT

ASK YOURSELF

- Do I actually spend time reading the Bible every day?
- When I read, am I really thinking about what I'm reading and letting it change the way I live?

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Find at least one TIME you know you can be alone to concentrate on reading your Bible.
- Find a PLACE in your home you know you can focus on what you're reading without distraction.
- Make a plan. Choose a book of the Bible and decide how much you'll read every day.
- SOAP: Read Scripture. Observe what's happening and think about what's going on. Apply what you read and think how it affects the way you live. Pray about it.

EXAMPLE

I'm going to get up at 7am every day so I can sit in my room before school and study verses from my church SOAP guide.



MISSION MINDED

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I NEED GROWTH IN MISSION MINDED

Jesus told us to tell the world about the good news of his love and forgiveness. Being mission minded means not only letting God work IN you, but also THROUGH you. It means looking for ways to bring people near you and around the world to know, love, and follow Jesus. That is why Jesus said, "Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone."

– Mark 16:15 NLT

ASK YOURSELF

- Do I bring people I know closer to knowing and living for Jesus?
- Do I help people around the world know Jesus?

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Pray for people who don't know Jesus to come to know him: both people you know and others around the world. Pray for opportunities for you to tell them.
- Give money to missionaries and missions organizations.
- Go. Invite someone to church. Tell someone about how you came to Jesus. Ask people if you can pray for them.
- Ask God if you should start preparing to become a missionary somewhere else in the world.

EXAMPLE

I'm going to ask my friend to come to church this week and I'm going to sell cookies to raise money for BGMC.



DAILY PRAYER

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I NEED GROWTH IN DAILY PRAYER

Prayer could be the best privilege we get to enjoy. We actually get to talk directly with God and hear him talk to us! When you realize how huge that is, you understand how much you need those vital conversations with God every day. That is why the Bible says, "Devote yourselves to prayer with an alert mind and a thankful heart." -Colossians 4:2 NLT and "Never stop praying." -1Thessalonians 5:17 NLT

ASK YOURSELF

- Do I actually spend quality time every day talking to God?
- When I pray, am I just asking for stuff or am I really talking and listening like God is a good friend?

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Find at least one TIME you know you can be alone with God to talk every day.
- Find a PLACE in your home you know you can give God your full attention without distraction.
- Don't just ask for stuff. Compliment God, thank him, ask forgiveness, pray for others, pray for yourself, and pray against temptation. There's so much to talk about.
- Spend time listening for God to speak to your heart.
- Keep praying all day, not just when you set aside time.

EXAMPLE

I'm going to get up at 7am every day so I can sit in my room before school and talk to God about everything I can think of.



360° FAITH

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I NEED GROWTH IN 360 FAITH

360 degrees means ALL the way around. 360 faith means putting Jesus in charge of every part of your life. Your thoughts, time, spending, friendships, entertainment, and EVERYTHING else should show you follow Jesus. That is why the Bible says, "And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father." – Colossians 3:17 NLT

ASK YOURSELF

- If anyone could peek into my life anytime, am I sure they would always see something that shows I follow Jesus?
- Is there any area in my life that could better show that I follow Jesus?

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Make a list of 10 things you do regularly such as eat, play, spend money, watch TV, do homework, etc.
- Find the one thing on that list that includes the least amount of Jesus in it.
- Pray and think about ways you could let Jesus have more influence in how you do it. Maybe discuss it with others.
- Choose one way you can add or subtract something from that part of your life to make it obvious you follow Jesus.

EXAMPLE

Someone might not know I follow Jesus by what I watch. I'm going to pray before I watch anything to ask God what's OK.



SPIRIT LED

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I NEED GROWTH IN SPIRIT LED

Spirit Led means you're always listening to where God's Spirit wants to lead you. It means you're not deciding where to go or what to do but letting the Holy Spirit show you every next step toward the great things he wants you to do. That is why the Bible says, "But you are not controlled by your sinful nature. You are controlled by the Spirit if you have the Spirit of God living in you. " – Romans 8:9 NLT

ASK YOURSELF

- Throughout my day, how often do I pause to listen to what God's Spirit wants to say or where he wants to lead me?
- Do I let God's Spirit help me understand, remember, and obey what God speaks to me in the Bible?

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- In your regular daily prayers, include time to listen for where the Holy Spirit may lead you and give him control.
- Listen for God's Spirit to speak in your Bible reading time.
- Pray for and use God's power through the baptism in the Holy Spirit like Jesus described in Acts 1:8.
- Look for the needs of others and help when God leads.
- Make reminders to pause throughout your day and listen for the Holy Spirit to lead you.

EXAMPLE

I know my friends don't go to church. I'm going to listen every day for ways the Holy Spirit can lead me to invite them.



HEALTHY COMMUNITY

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I NEED GROWTH IN HEALTHY COMMUNITY

God made us for relationships. We need to be around people who encourage us and help us get closer to Jesus. We also need to love and help others as they get closer to Jesus. We need a healthy community of other Christians. That is why the Bible says, "Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together..." – Hebrews 10:24-25 NLT

ASK YOURSELF

- Do I make sure I'm spending time with other Christians regularly—both in and outside church?
- When I'm with other Christians, am I letting them help me with my problems while helping them with theirs?

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Go to church. Seriously, make it an important part of life.
- When you are in church, remember to pay attention to people. We gather to connect with others, not just to hear the music or teaching.
- Regularly ask Christian friends to hang out with you outside church.
- When you are with other Christians, talk about your problems so they can encourage you. Also ask questions about their problems so you can encourage them.

EXAMPLE

When I go to church this Sunday, I'm going to ask my friend to pray for me and ask her if she wants me to pray for her.



SELF-DENIAL

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I NEED GROWTH IN SELF-DENIAL

Self-denial is telling your body NO so your spirit can grow. It helps you see Jesus is really what you need most, but it's more than giving something up. You also spend time saying YES to Jesus. Fill the time with things that build your spirit. That is why the Lord says, "Turn to me now, while there is time. Give me your hearts. Come with fasting, weeping, and mourning." –Joel 2:12 NLT

ASK YOURSELF

- What is one area of my life that probably gets too much of my focus, attention, or energy?
- What is one area in my relationship with Jesus that would benefit from more of my focus, attention, or energy?

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Give up something hard: Food, video games, electronic devices, or anything you love. Decide what you're giving up and how long you will go without it.
- Set aside a time and place every day where you spend extra time with Jesus in worship and prayer.
- Decide what you need God to do in your life and ask for it.
- Every time you notice how much you want what you've given up, stop and pray for that thing you need from God.

EXAMPLE

I'm giving up sugar every Saturday this month and getting up at 8am to pray 10 minutes in my room for my mom.
