

6 Tools for Growing in Faith and Knowledge of Christ

Start With Good Soil

Before planting a garden, the soil has to be broken up, tilled and turned. God sometimes does the preparing, bringing us to a place of brokenness, getting our hearts ready for the seeds of His grace. Is the soil of your heart ready to receive the love and mercy of Jesus? Do you have unconfessed sin? Are you dependent on yourself or God? If so, then ask God to loosen your grip on these and ready your heart for His love and grace.

Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts.
Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life.
Psalm 139:23-24

Get Rid Of The Weeds

In our life, there are “weeds” that invade our thoughts and hearts. Left to grow, they choke out the truth. We must continually renew our minds with His truth, the truth of who we are. Do the words you speak to yourself match what God thinks about you? Do you speak to yourself in a way you would not speak to others? Do negative harsh words about yourself invade your thoughts? The best place to learn the truth of who you are is in scripture. Read the true words of God's love for you. Take captive those negative thoughts and replace with His truth. You are a beloved daughter of God and nothing can take that away.

But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.
1 John 1:9

Be Alert For Predators

Keeping predators out of a garden is a constant battle. It is the same with our enemy, Satan. He comes to steal our fruitfulness, to mow down our confidence in who we are as daughters of the One True God. He comes to destroy God's work in our lives. Fighting predators begins with understanding what keeps them away. Do you have a consistent quiet time? Do you go to God in prayer first or as a last resort? Do you memorize scripture? If not, then consider making time with God a priority having a consistent time of prayer and spending time in God's Word.

Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.
1 Peter 5:8

Be Patient

The hardest part of gardening is not the work; it's the waiting. It takes a long time for a seed to turn into something to be enjoyed at the dinner table. But there's no rushing. In the waiting, however, watch what the Creator is busy doing. It's during the waiting that God grows us. He changes sprouts of faith to fruitful bounty. Sometimes you can't see it, but He is working. Is it difficult to slow down and wait for God? Do you get ahead of Him? Slow down and trust He will do what He says. He is faithful.

Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!
Psalm 27:14

Give God the Glory

It is not by our hands that anything grows. It is God, our Creator and it is He that deserves the gratitude and glory. Sometimes we want to take the credit, believing in ourselves instead of God. It is God who equips us and strengthens us to do His will. Do you want the spotlight when something goes your way? That's part of being human. In that moment, stop and give God all the glory because He is worthy.

Praise the Lord, all people on earth, praise his glory and might.
1 Chronicles 16:28

Share The Bounty

With persistent pursuit our faith grows and our love and knowledge of Christ overflows. People around us want what we have in Jesus. Share what God has done through Jesus in your life. What was your life like before Jesus and what is your life like after knowing Him. Tell everyone who will listen.

And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.
Acts 1:8