

Hope Chapel Series: *“Messy to Manageable” part 2*

Message Summary: Spiritual growth and maturity should be a desire and a pursuit of every follower of Jesus. God desires that we grow up. BUT, this process is messy. It's not a clear straight line that is ever progressing upward. Rather, there are a lot of pitfalls, valleys, grueling struggles and plateaus throughout our lifetime. Spiritual growth is defined as: Growing *in my knowledge of God, living out the character of God; daily experiencing the presence of God, and growing in my obedience to God.*

Growing Spiritually is Messy

1. Why is growing spiritually messy?

- A. **Spiritual growth involves failure** - Romans 7:14-15
- B. **Spiritual growth is hard work** - Philippians 3:12-14
- C. **Spiritual growth conflicts with the world** - 1 John 2:15-16
- D. **Spiritual growth wrestles with the sinful nature** - Galatians 5:17
- E. **Spiritual growth engages a spiritual enemy** - Ephesians 6:10-12

2. How do we follow Jesus through the messiness of spiritual growth?

- A. **Resolve to never quit growing spiritually** - Hebrews 6:1-3
- B. **Grow together in community** - Hebrews 10:24-25
- C. **Acknowledge your struggles to others** - Galatians 6:2
- D. **Keep taking steps of obedience** - James 1:25
- E. **Stay in the Word of God** - 1 Peter 2:2

LifeGroup QUESTIONS: *All LifeGroups begin this Week*

BEGIN IT (5min) – Praise song and opening prayer.

OPEN IT (10min) - Share about your own journey in spiritual growth. Share about the struggles. How at times, it has been messy. Share also your emotional ups and downs (guilt, discouragement, joy and exhilaration).

EXPLORE IT (60min) – Review Sunday's sermon outline and answer the following questions:

1. Five reasons were given why spiritual growth is messy. Discuss each one and the Scriptures provided. Share about your own experiences with these reasons. Share about your own continual struggles.
2. Five reasons were given how to follow Jesus through the messiness of growth. Again, discuss each one with the Scriptures provided. Share how these truths have helped you in your spiritual journey.

APPLY IT (15min) - What specific steps can you take to be intentional cooperating with Jesus in your own spiritual growth?