



George Barna, from his book, "Growing True Disciples":

- 18% said that growing spiritually is the single, most intense commitment in their life.
- 52% said that they work consistently to grow spiritually but with limited success.
- 20% said that they work occasionally to grow spiritually but are not consistent.
- 10% admitted that they are neither involved nor interested in growing spiritually.

What were the reasons Christians gave for not pursuing spiritual growth more?

- 66% said they are just too busy to give the process the time it requires.
- 25% cited a general lack of interest or motivation to grow.

Hebrews 11:1(NCV)

"Faith means being sure of the things we hope for and knowing that something is real even if we do not see it."

Six Roles The Faith Plays In The Christian Life

#1 Faith is Pleasing to God.

Hebrews 11:6 tells us that without faith it is impossible to please God. Not only must we believe who He is, but we must believe that He rewards those who diligently seek Him.

#2 Faith Determines Our Actions.

Faith is important because it affects the decisions we make, the way we interact with others, and the way we react to the situations that confront us.

Matthew 17:20 (NLT)

"...Jesus told them. "I tell you the truth, if you had faith even as small as a mustard seed...Nothing would be impossible."



James 1:22 (NKJV)

"But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."

Deception isn't reality, just our own perception.

#3 Faith Gives Us a Testimony.

The words of our testimony not only build up the person speaking, but they give courage to the hearer of the testimony and encourages them to believe God, too.

Revelation 12:11 (NLT) "They have defeated him by the blood of the Lamb and by their testimony. And they did not love their lives so much that they were afraid to die.

Contemporary Christianity suffers from "a lack of passion to be godly." We give intellectual assent to the idea, but when push comes to shove, we have passion, but it is not a passion for what matters to God."
~ George Barna

5 Misconceptions about God:

1. God is mad at you.
 - Psalm 17:8, Zechariah 2:8
2. God doesn't want to help you.
 - Jeremiah 33:3
3. God wants to ZAP you for being bad.
 - Lamentations 3:22-23
4. God doesn't want you to have anything.
 - 1 John 3:2
5. God doesn't want you to enjoy life.
 - John 10:10

#4 Faith Directs My Steps.

Proverbs 3:5-7 (NKJV)

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and depart from evil.”

Acknowledge, Depend, Look To...

#5 Faith Keeps Me Safe.

Proverbs 4

Vs 1. “... and give attention to know understanding”

Vs 10 “Hear and receive my sayings, and the years of your life will be many.”

Vs 18-19 “But the path of the just *is* like the shining sun, that shines ever brighter unto the perfect day.

The way of the wicked *is* like darkness; They do not know what makes them stumble.”

- As we stay close to God our path gets brighter. As we move away from Him it gets darker

Vs 20-22 “My child, pay attention to what I say. Listen carefully to my words. Don’t lose sight of them. Let them penetrate deep into your heart, they bring life to those who find them, and healing to their whole body.”



1 Peter 5:8 (NKJV)

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.”

Hebrews 2:1(NKJV)

“We must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away.”

“We must pay much closer attention than ever to the things that we have heard, so that we do not, in any way, drift away from truth.” (AMP)

#6 Faith Is Getting Stronger In my Life.

John 6:63 (NLT)

“The Spirit alone gives eternal life. Human effort accomplishes nothing. And the very words I have spoken to you are spirit and life.”

Romans 8:14 “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.”

Romans 8:5 “For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those *who live* according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.”

“We need to
become **MORE**
Spirit conscious!”
– Brother Hagin

What causes you to be more aware?

Jude 20 “But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,”

The more you use a muscle, the more aware you become of it.

1 Corinthians 14:14-15

1 John 2:20

Often times God will ask us to do something contrary to our understanding We need to be paying attention:

Naaman – dip in the dirty river to be healed.

Jesus – spit in the blind man’s eye in order for him to see.

Peter – told to open the fishes mouth to find the money for his taxes.

Jesus – fill the water jugs and it will be turned into wine.

