



One thing that distinguishes Christianity from every other faith in the world is that Christianity is not a religion but rather a relationship. We cannot view our growth as believers as a list of do's and don't's but rather an affectionate response to what God has and is doing for us! We need to grow close to Christ! Everything in our walk with Christ begins in the heart.

You need to meditate on the gospel to grow close to Christ.

Pursue Christ through the simplicity of the gospel.

Luke 9 - You are no longer blind! Now you see!

Pursue Christ by recounting the gospel.

1. Recount the gospel by preaching the gospel to yourself. (Romans 4:7-8)

2. Recount the gospel by sharing the gospel with others. (Luke 8:38-40)

We are called to declare how great things God hath done unto us.

3. Recount the gospel by worshipping the Savior with other believers. (Hebrews 10:19-25)

4. Recount the gospel by celebrating the _____.

A. _____

The Precedent: _____ was baptized. (Matthew 3:13-16)

The _____: Jesus commands believers to baptize and be baptized. (Matthew 28:19-20)

The Pattern: Baptism is for _____. (Acts 8:26-39)

Maybe you are thinking, "Aren't we supposed to be talking about growing closer to Christ? How does this help me draw closer to Jesus?"

The Picture: Believers are _____! (Romans 6:1-7)

How can the regular reminder of baptism help you grow close to Christ?

B. The _____ (Luke 22:19)

Application Notes: _____

As you pursue Christ, by recounting the gospel to yourself in these 4 ways, you will find yourself growing in Christ. The foundational building block to your walk with Christ is the gospel.

Conclusion: God pursued you by sending Christ to die in your place. **You need to meditate on the gospel to grow close to Christ.** You are joyfully respond to God's pursuit of you by pursuing Him in return. It's not a religion - it is a relationship.