

DNA Part 3: Grow

*“Keep vigilant watch over your **heart**; that’s where life starts.” Proverbs 4:23 MSG*

You were made to Grow.

*“So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to **equip** his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become **mature**, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will **grow** to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, **grows and builds itself up** in love, as each part does its work.” Ephesians 4:11-16 NIV*

Growth isn’t **accidental**.

Growth isn’t **automatic**.

Growth requires **intentional learning** and **practical steps**.

✓ **My Faith**

✓ **My Family**

✓ **My Fitness**

✓ **My Field**

*“In my vision, the man brought me back to the entrance of the Temple. There I saw a stream flowing east from beneath the door of the Temple and passing to the right of the altar on its south side. The man brought me outside the wall through the north gateway and led me around to the eastern entrance. There I could see the water flowing out through the south side of the east gateway. Measuring as he went, he took me along the stream for 1,750 feet and then led me across. The water was up to my **ankles**. He measured off another 1,750 feet and led me across again. This time the water was up to my **knees**. After another 1,750 feet, it was up to my **waist**. Then he measured another 1,750 feet, and the river was too deep to walk across. It was **deep enough to swim** in, but too deep to walk through.” Ezekiel 47:1-5 NLT*

1. Develop a personal relationship with Jesus.

"Come near to God and he will come near to you." James 4:8 NIV

2. Go public with God.

*"In **baptism** we show that we have been saved from death and doom by the resurrection of Christ; not because our bodies are washed clean by the water but because in being baptized we are **turning to God** and asking him to cleanse our hearts from sin." 1 Peter 3:21 LB*

3. Attend Next Steps classes.

*"It's in Christ that we find out who we are and what we are living for. Long before we first heard of Christ and got our hopes up, he had his eye on us, had designs on us for glorious living, part of the **overall purpose** he is working out in everything and everyone." Ephesians 1:11-12 MSG*

4. Start or join a Small Group.

*"You are a member of God's very own family... and **you belong** in God's household with every other Christian." Ephesians 2:19 LB*

5. Stay faithful for one year.

*"Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we've been given a brand-new life and have everything to live for, including a future in heaven – **and the future starts now!**" 1 Peter 1:4-5 MSG*