

# GOD'S GROWTH PLAN



EPHESIANS  
4:11-16

**SERMON SERIES: God's Growth Plan**

**SERMON TITLE: Receiving God's Word**

**KEY TEXTS: Ephesians 4:11-16 ESV, 1 Peter 2:1-3 NLT, 1 Corinthians 3:1-4 NKJV, Hebrews 5:12-14 NLT, James 1:21-22 NKJV**

**Big Idea:** God has a growth plan for our lives. He wants us to step into what He created us to do. He saved us to grow and live a life of service in the fullness of Christ. This series will investigate God's intention and plan for our spiritual growth, as well as how this growth occurs, what the components for growth are, and what this growth looks like.

If we do not grow in our Christian walk, we will be unable to receive what has been given to us as co-heirs with Christ. God desires for us to achieve unity in the contents of our faith, acceptance, and possession of a complete, correct, and full comprehension of the revealed Christ and being filled with his essence. We should feast on God's deeper truths and strive for self-control, uprightness, and Godliness.

In this fifth sermon of the series, Pastor Walker illustrates how our growth happens when we receive and apply God's word in our lives.

## **Ephesians 4:11-16 ESV**

*And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds, and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.*

God Bless You!

MLFC Connection Groups Office

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## A. Start Talking

Share a brief story about a time you felt 'super old' and what happened.

## B. Start Thinking

1. Read **Hebrews 4:12 NKJV** and **1 Peter 2:1-3 NLT**. How have you built your desire for God's word and how will you avoid getting overcrowded by other things?
2. Three heart conditions in **Mark 4:14-19 ESV** hinder God's word from bearing fruit. Which of these listed is a struggle for you?
  - Cares of the World
  - Deceitfulness of Riches
  - The desire for other things
3. Which specific areas of your life have grown as a result of God's word at work in your heart? Read **Romans 12:2 ESV** and **Mark 4:20 ESV**

## C. Start praying

Pray that you have the desire for the Word of God and growth in your life.

## D. Start Doing

1. Develop a desire to hear and accept God's word daily in your life.
2. Your response to God's word will determine your fruit.
3. Identify what is affecting your life and put God's word as a priority on it.

Share the link with MLFC members in your network who do not attend a Connection Group: <https://mlfc.anatomy.org.za/group/>.

## SCHOOL FOR LIFE

It is crucial for Christians to experience the presence of the Holy Spirit in their life as well as examine the operation, purpose, and benefits of His gifts in the church today.

Join **The Holy Spirit** course on **Saturday 11 February 2023** from **09:00 – 12:00 hours** and **The Holy Spirit and His Gifts** course on **Sunday 12 February 2023** from **13:00 – 16:00 hours** both in **Classroom 3**. Signup via [www.mlfc.org](http://www.mlfc.org) or the mobile app.