

## GROWING IN GRACE

"But **grow in the grace** and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." 2 Peter 3:18 (NIV)

Growth is not how many

Growth is how much

"You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to **put off your old self**, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to **be made new in the attitude of your minds**; and to **put on the new self**, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness." Ephesians 4:22-24 (NIV)

### I. PUT OFF THE OLD

"Neither do men pour new wine into old wineskins. If they do, the skins will burst, the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved." Matthew 9:17 (NIV)

"It is good for our hearts to be **strengthened by grace**..." Hebrews 13:9 (NIV)

"Who then will condemn us? Will Christ? **No!** For He is the one who died for us and came back to life again for us..." Romans 8:34 (TLB)

- \* Trying to grow by doing good
- \* Trying to grow by keeping rules
- \* Trying to grow by feeling bad

### II. PUT ON THE NEW

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a **new creation**; the old has gone, the new has come!" 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV)

"For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God." Colossians 3:3 (NLT)

- \* We don't have to achieve our new life.
- \* We don't have to keep our new life
- \* We do have to put on our new life.

### III. BE RENEWED IN YOUR MIND

"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will." Romans 12:2 (NIV)

"Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort?" Gal. 3:3 (NIV)

### 2 QUESTIONS

Why does it take so long?

Where do I get started? **TRUST**

"... He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." Phil. 1:6 (NIV)

"for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose." Phil. 2:13 (NIV)

## What does *The Waters* believe and what does it value?

Find out at [www.waterschurch.com](http://www.waterschurch.com)

Jesus spent his time, not with the religious leaders of the day, but with the lowest of the low...with prostitutes, crooked government officials, criminals and the like. It is these people who are most desperate in their need for Jesus as their savior. Now you can walk in Jesus' footsteps.

Jan 22-24<sup>th</sup> you'll have a unique opportunity to learn about prison ministry and then take the gospel to inmates. You'll go with a large organized "show" which entertains the inmates and then you'll be there to share God's love with them afterwards. During the conference you'll be given all the tools you'll need, including how to talk to people about your faith. Deadline for registration is December 31<sup>st</sup>. Go to

[www.BillGlass.org](http://www.BillGlass.org) and click on Jan 22-24 to register.

What will you do in 2009 to make a difference?

**Prayer Team** We now have 3 ways you can pray with The Waters. First way is to show up at 9:30 on Sunday morning and join with us as we pray for Kelly, his message and The Waters. The second way is to sign up on the registration card indicating you're willing to pray for people who ask for prayer. The new third way is to come to Pastor Kelly's house on Wednesday nights for prayer time. We'll be praying for the church, our leaders, and the needs of the people in our community. Childcare will NOT be provided. (Starts in January)

**Does your New Year's Resolution include serving?** The SPLASH Zone is in need of a few teachers. You'll rotate with others, 1 month on/ 1 month (or maybe 2 months) off! We have almost as many kids in our church as we do adults and they can be such a blessing to work with. Won't you consider giving an hour a week?

Email Dawn Craighead at [info@WatersChurch.com](mailto:info@WatersChurch.com)

**Contact Pastor Kelly: [kelly@waterschurch.com](mailto:kelly@waterschurch.com) or 210 913 4602**

Our mailing address is The Waters Church, PO Box 1035, Cibolo, 78108

"Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost." Isaiah 55:1