

Sermon Outline – January 3, 2016
The Case For Growing In Faith
Philippians 3:10-16 Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

1. The goal for this series: Each of us will take at least _____
_____ to have our faith grow.

- What happens when our faith grows? _____
- Do you think your faith in God is growing? (*circle one*) Yes No
- Do you want your faith in God to grow? (*circle one*) Yes No
- What is the simple goal for this sermon?

- The fancy religious term for growing in faith is _____.

2. Three signs that spiritual formation is happening, that your faith is growing:

- My _____ in God is growing so that I *increasingly* _____ God no matter what life throws at me.
- I *increasingly* face life's celebrations and trials with remarkable _____ – "the peace of God that transcends all human understanding." (Philippians 4:7)
- I *increasingly* embark on _____ to unleash God's love. I more often boldly step out in faith to unleash God's love when I serve, invite, and give to meet the hopes and hurts of others.

3. How did this Apostle Paul describe his desire to grow in faith in Philippians 3:12-16?

- V. 12a –
- V. 12b – "*I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.*" Series memory verse. (See also verse 16) What is important to remember in this series?
- Vss. 13-14 –
- Vss. 15-16 –

4. Jesus' Parable of the Sower (Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23)

- Who is the sower? _____
- What or who is the seed? _____
- Who are the plants? _____
- What is this parable teaching?
- What are we growing to understand?
- Who do the four plants represent?
 - 1) The "plants" on the path –
 - 2) The plants in the rocky soil –
 - 3) The plant among the thorns –
 - 4) The plants in the good soil –
- What does not happen in the end of the parable? _____
- What matters most?
- What is assumed here? _____
- Which plant do you want to be? _____

5. Good and reasonable motivations to want to grow in faith:

- I will have greater _____ in God, a deeper _____
- I will have the _____ that transcends all human understanding in the face of everything. I will grow to be content in all circumstances (Philippians 4:11-12)
- I will be _____ with an active, death-defying, out-of-the-box and amazing confidence in God that will lead me to embark on extraordinary acts of ministry to unleash God's love.
- God _____ me to grow in faith and it _____ God.

6. A practical next step: