

**10 Yards At A Time
(Spiritual Growth)
Eph 4:11-16
By Russell Earl**

Thesis: I want to show how one can accomplish spiritual growth.

- Intro:
1. Spiritual growth is a necessity for every Christian.
 2. Some have said “If you’re not growing your dying”.
 3. It is so important as a follower of Christ and servant of God to grow spiritually.

I. Steady Gains

A. A desire to Grow (**Ps 119:66**)

1. If we are to grow we must first sincerely desire to do so. Some say they want to grow but show no true desire to do so.
2. To grow as a Christian takes effort and a lot of it – you get out of it what you put in to it (**Acts 17:11, Ps 119:97**).

B. A plan for growth

1. Daily Bible Study
2. Note taking
3. Consulting commentaries on difficult scriptures
4. Watching and listening to lessons by various gospel preachers
5. **Taking Online Bible Classes (oabs.org)**

C. Willingness to take the time

1. Growth doesn’t happen over night it takes time-years. (**2 Tim 1:5**).
2. We must be willing to take time to learn-this may mean sacrificing other things (**Ps 25:5**).
3. Are you willing to take the time?

II. Penalties

A. Not willing to let go of traditions

1. We must be willing to let go of traditions when we realize they are contrary to God (**Mt 15:3**)
2. There may be certain ideas you grow up believing in, would you give them up when the Word of God says differently?

B. Lack of dedication in study (**Hosea 4:6**).

1. The Church today is hurt by a famine. Too many are not dedicated to study God’s Word.
2. The Bible tells us that people are destroyed because they lack knowledge.

III. Handling the Defense

A. Hindrances

1. The world says there are better things than studying God’s Word (**Pro 1:29**)
2. The knowledge of God stands forever and is MORE important than worldly things or worldly activities (**Pro 8:10-11, Phil 3:7-8**).

B. Temptations

1. One temptation may be to just take what others say as the truth (**Mt 5:19**).
2. Another is to think that you know everything (**Rom 1:22**)

Conc: 1. Touchdowns (accomplishments in spiritual Growth)

- a. Ability to answer questions concerning the Bible
 - b. Willingness and ability to teach or preach.
 - c. Approved and pleasing in the eyes of God (**2 Tim 2:15**).
2. Are you ready to line up and do what it takes to grow in the knowledge of God?
 3. Invitation