



GROWING AND WALKING WITH GOD - PART 1

*How do you grow in your walk with God and increase your intimacy with Him?
How do you go further in the journey for your own heart?*

You have to know where Jesus is in relation to you. Where is He?

He is inside you. He lives in your heart. When you trust Jesus (*transfer the trust for your life and eternity from yourself to Jesus*), then He comes into your life and resides in your heart. Your heart is good; otherwise Jesus Himself would not reside there. It is in your heart that Jesus dwells:

Ephesians 3:16-17 (NIV) : *I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.*

How do you know He really is there and you are not making this up?

You may begin to feel differently as you grow in your walk with God. You will sense Him speak more and more to your heart—this is a good thing, but it is not what brings absolute certainty. Certainty becomes a reality in your life when you know that when Jesus makes a promise, He comes through. In other words: because Jesus said He would, you can trust He will do what He says. We can know we have the eternal life of God because when we ask and it is His will, we know He will do it. It is God's will that you not only come to know Him, but walk intimately with Him.

1 John 5:11-15 (NIV): *And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life. This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.*

John 1:12 (NLT): *But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. They are reborn! This is not a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan—this rebirth comes from God.*

One of the biggest issues you will face in learning to live from your heart and walking with God has to do with control.

How do you learn to relinquish control of your life?

We all like to control our own life, and are all used to being the CEO of our universe. It's a process of learning to live your life not as if you are the hero of the story, but as if God is. He invites you not only to play a key part but also to have a key part in writing the unfolding story of your life. Learning to give up control really happens as a process.

It is a decision we make at a point in time, and then an ongoing process. There is a point at which a person crosses a line and says something like *"I am going for it. For this to work, I must resign as CEO, and I turn myself, my heart, my will, my body, all of me, my dreams, my hopes, my plans, all of it over to you, Lord Jesus. I am yours."* From there it is an ongoing process to live that out as you learn to live from your heart. But here is the interesting thing: **relinquishing control of your life is about much more than focusing on giving up control. You have to back your way into this.**

How do you back your way into relinquishing control of your life?

By increasing your trust of God. You can only trust a person to the degree that you know them. The more you know God intimately, the more you will be able to trust Him — the more you will be able to believe that His heart towards you is good, and that He can indeed be trusted with your life, future, dreams, plans, and hopes.