

## Personal Growth

Your spiritual development is more a matter of the heart than it is of the head. It is far easier to explain a truth than it is to live it. There are some aspects of truth that can only be understood as we live them. [John 3:1-12](#). As you grow as a member of SOL, do not neglect your heart development. You may quickly learn how to function in our fellowship and yet not be formed into a vibrant child of God. You can be up front leading the services and yet be empty. You can be a lost leader. You can learn to perfectly hide your lost-ness that no one other than Jesus will recognize it. All the disciples thought Judas was a great leader until the end.

It is important that you are growing spiritually; otherwise those around you will suffer from your loss. Those who do not grow spiritually seek only to survive until a better day. Mere survival is not the goal - union with God is. [John 15](#). We can have the best group of leaders on the planet, but if God is not with any of them, we have only created a Christian-styled social club. We have not formed a fellowship of believers. God must shape your heart. Something or someone IS shaping your heart. You are more "like" Him or you are regressing or even expressing the image of the enemy.

Why did God create YOU in the first place? With all of the options He had, why has He chosen to work through YOU? One answer is God created you because He wanted to shape your heart. He wanted to speak through you into the lives of others. God wants to work with normal people (just like you) in normal situations (like yours) because most of our spiritual growth takes place during normal activities. In my own experience, the strongest and tallest brick walls of opposition I have ever encountered were made of the normal everyday details of life. Very seldom have I met demons out in the open. Most of what I meet are time restrictions, schedule changes, urgent needs and things that must be done - and all of a sudden I don't have time for God. I was defeated by the normal activities of living.

We tend to see things in others more clearly than we see them in ourselves. Therefore it is often very helpful to observe how God shaped the heart of other believers. As we see God at work in their lives, we can often see Him more clearly in ours. [Ex. 1:21-22](#) and [Ex. 2:10](#). Before he was born, events were taking place that would later affect his life. Nothing happens outside the will of God. While other parents were crying over the loss of their children, Moses' family would be celebrating his life. How do you think the neighbors felt? God saved Moses but did not save your son? How would something like this challenge your faith? Based on the situation, a Moses' mother, what would you whisper to him? What would you want in his heart?

Surely there was a sense of destiny. This is one thing missing with our children today. We see all of their mistakes, as our children, the things they failed to do, but we miss their destiny. They were not born by accident. There is a purpose for every life. God made sure that Moses would grow up in a home where it was clear that there was a purpose for his life. Miriam probably came to believe that Moses owed his life to her and therefore she had the right to control certain areas of his life. She cared for him so dearly that she saw herself as being the "reason" he survived. She became over important. [Numbers 12:1-15](#).

God arranged for Moses to grow up in two cultures. He needed to understand both in order to fulfill his destiny. This dual-living arrangement would make Moses strange in both communities. Most leaders feel different. In Pharaoh's court Moses would study law, problem solving, project management and Egyptian religion. All of these experiences would serve Moses as a leader. When God spoke the Ten Commandments, He spoke them to a legally trained mind. Moses was an expert in law. He was familiar with Egyptian religion and was effective as an ambassador of Yahweh, the God of the slaves.

Moses also had a false start into leadership. One day Moses snapped and killed an Egyptian. He could no longer work within the system. He had to run for his life. The slaves had turned on him. [Ex. 2:11-15](#). The slaves acted the same way they would act throughout Moses' life. They

rejected his help. Moses experienced what all leaders ultimately fear - rejection from the people they are called to lead. Remember, he was a child of two cultures - he never completely belonged to either. His people rejected him and the Hebrews never fully accepted him. They rejected him at every opportunity. They only welcomed Moses when they wanted something. His heart would often hurt. He would be wounded mostly by so-called friends. He had been called to lead people who did not know to stay close to God in order for his heart to bear the pain of rejection. We put too much meaning into rejection. Most people reject you because they do not know who you are.

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