

The Growth Formula

Have you ever thought about how a person grows spiritually? We have a formula that we use to guide us in the *Growth Institute* to help people grow.

GUTS + GIFTS + GOVERNMENT = GROWTH

Following this growth formula will lead to your destiny in fulfilling the call on your life. This is a simple formula for becoming all that God wants you to be. While the formula is simple, the implementation is a little more difficult!

Our Foundations classes in the *Growth Institute* begin with an *Encounter!* This is a time to encounter God in a way that you may never have known before. This begins our journey, but there is much more.

Our three Foundations classes are called *Disciple!*, *Minister!*, and *Lead!* These three classes correspond with the three “G’s” on the left side of the equation: *Guts*, *Gifts*, and *Government*. Let’s explain the formula:

Guts

What are guts? Very simply, guts are character. Character will make or break you. Your gift may “get you in the door”, but character keeps you in the room. Your gift may get you started, but character allows you to finish.

Your gift is given to you freely, but character is grown over time. The character that we want to develop through time and growth is the Fruit of the Holy Spirit.

Galatians 5:22-23 says, “*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.*”

We can have the greatest gift in the world, but without guts we will end up like Samson in the Old Testament. He was “strong” in his gifting, but his lack of character cost him his ministry and eventually his life.

The *Disciple!* class helps you in growing your guts!

Gifts

There are three types of gifts given by the Trinity in the New Testament. Each member of the Trinity gives one of the types of gifts, and each of the gifts has its own purpose. It is important to understand the gifts and discover yours because this is where a large part of your impact will come.

God gives you these gifts to make a difference in the world. Each gift is a small reflection of Him that He wants imparted into the earth. Here are the three categories of Gifts:

1. **Father's Gifts** (*Motivational Gifts*). Seven gifts given by Father God to bring ministry to others. Listed in Romans 12:6-8. Everyone has at least one of these gifts.
2. **Holy Spirit's Gifts** (*Supernatural Gifts*). Nine gifts given by Holy Spirit to bring power. Listed in 1 Corinthians 12:7-8. Everyone can flow in these gifts as determined by the Holy Spirit.
3. **Jesus' Gifts** (*5 Offices*). Five gifts given by Jesus to bring the Church to maturity. Listed in Ephesians 4:11-12. Given to individuals by Jesus.

**The alternate names in parenthesis are not Biblical names, but are given to help communicate the purpose of the Gifts.*

The *Minister!* class helps you discover your Gifts.

Government

Along with your guts and gifts, you need to be aligned with the proper government.

Government is the structure that Jesus has for His Church. We are all a part of His Church. We each have a place. We all need to find it.

The local church is His instrument to bring about spiritual change in the earth. Psalm 92:3 says, "*Planted in the house of the Lord, they will flourish in the courts of our God.*"

For you to reach your destiny, you must do it with a team of people that God wants you to work with. That team of people is found in a local church. Many Christians are lone rangers. If you are a lone ranger, you may achieve some success but you will *never* reach your full destiny. God has set it up that no one person has all of the answers or pieces. You must link arm in arm with others.

Are you planted in a local church actively partnering with others to accomplish God's will? Do you know which local church you are to be involved in, and what your place is in the church? All of the prayer lines, prophecies, and anointing will not take us to where we want to be without being properly aligned in the Body of Christ. Even Jesus is aligned with His Church. He is not a lone ranger! He is the head, but He can't move unless the rest of the body wants to go. There is a place in the church for you that will excite and challenge you if you haven't found it yet.

The *Lead!* Class helps you to understand government and to find your place in it.

When we work on our *Guts*, discover our *Gifts*, and align with *Government*, we will see *Growth!*

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