



ABOUT

GROWING IN CHRIST

QUESTIONS

30 DEVOTIONS FOR
KIDS, TEENS & FAMILIES

WILLIAM R.
OSBORNE

"10 Questions About Growing in Christ is a practical, biblically grounded devotional designed to help tweens develop spiritual habits such as prayer, Bible reading, and involvement in their local church. Osborne draws on his experience as a father by using real-life examples to clarify complex theological ideas. This book is a valuable resource for parents and youth leaders dedicated to discipling and raising future leaders."

Amanda T. Walker, Director of Christian Formation,
College of the Ozarks; mother of tweens

"I love good questions because they invite us to wrestle with God's word in a way we otherwise wouldn't. They take us deeper into the heart of God for us as his people. They challenge us to think in new ways. They show us the beauty of the gospel, and how it applies to our everyday lives and relationships. That's what this devotional book from Osborne does. As a pastor, I am always looking for biblically solid, gospel-centered, thoughtful, and practical devotional books that I can recommend to our church. This devotional book for kids, teens, and parents is all those things. Read it with your kids; your family devotional time will be deeply enriched!"

Wes Simmons, Senior Pastor, St. Andrews Presbyterian Church

"Christian families will find this devotional engaging and relevant, especially for elementary-aged children and young teens. By pairing helpful 'keyword call-outs' with carefully chosen Scripture in each reading, Osborne invites parents and kids to explore together what it truly means to grow in Christ. *10 Questions About Growing in Christ* is a clear, relatable, and practical resource for families seeking to deepen their faith."

Kelly Coy, Director of Children's Ministry, Parkside Church

"I'm grateful for this little book. Osborne gives profound instruction in short, practical, and readable chapters that guide teens to understand the nature of true faith, new birth, fighting sin, and staying close to God and his people. I was constantly thinking of my own teenagers and the teenagers in my church community as I was reading and am excited for them to have this book."

John Starke, Lead Pastor, Apostles Church Uptown; author,
The Possibility of Prayer

"Christian parents who labor to see their children grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus will find a rich and accessible resource in William Osborne's thirty-day devotional, *10 Questions About Growing in Christ*. Beginning with regeneration and moving deftly through topics such as prayer, suffering, indwelling sin, and the life of the church, each concise chapter aims to encourage the young Christian to pursue a developing and vibrant Christian faith, informed by Scripture and marked by good and growing relationships with God and his people."

Matthew Bingham, Vice President of Academic Affairs and
Associate Professor of Church History, Phoenix Seminary;
author, *A Heart Aflame for God*

10
Questions
About
Growing in Christ

10 Questions

Edited by Champ Thornton

10 Questions About the Bible, Todd R. Chipman

10 Questions About Growing in Christ, William R. Osborne

10 Questions About Pain and Suffering, Beth M. Broom

10 Questions About Salvation, Champ Thornton

10 QUESTIONS ABOUT GROWING IN CHRIST

**30 Devotions for Kids,
Teens, and Families**

William R. Osborne

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*To my children, Sophie, Eleanor, Moses, and Henry,
whose growth in Christ spurs me on to hope in our good God*

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Series Preface

Jesus loved questions.

If you open your Bible and read Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John (the Gospels), you can count over three hundred places where Jesus asked questions and over one hundred times where he answered questions.

So if you bring questions to Jesus, you've come to the right place. The Lord invites all of us to pursue him with our questions, and he will answer. "For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened" (Matt. 7:8).

You may have tons of questions, but the ten questions in this book will get you started. The *answers* to those ten questions are given in three daily devotional readings—three days for each question. These readings take you to the Bible, the word of God, where you can find answers to your questions. And these answers are all listed at the end of the book.

You can use this book however you like. You can skip straight to the list at the end. Or you can devour all thirty devotional readings at once, though it might take a few hours. You can read through all ten questions in order—one reading per day. Or your family could read one devotion together, perhaps at breakfast before the day or in the evening after dinner.

Find a way that works for you. But what's most important is that you listen to God's word. Whatever question is on your mind, let Jesus provide the answer through his word. If you're going to find, you must seek.

Ask him, and he will answer.

Champ Thornton

Introduction

From the time you are born, you start growing. There is not a second of your life that you are not changing and growing older. To live is to grow. The same is true for your Christian life. You might think that once you become a Christian, that's it.

I'm a Christian. Now what?

What if your trust and faith in God were like a jacket you put on when you were seven? How long do you think you could wear it? It would not be very long before you grew out of it!

The Christian faith is not like a jacket or a shirt or shoes that we get at one point in time. Our relationship with God grows with us—kind of like growing closer to a friend. While we may feel comfortable making a new friend, growing closer to God might not feel as easy. How do we do it?

This book is designed to help you think about ways you can grow in Christ. Maybe you have never even thought about growing in your faith. If that's you—it's okay. We're going to start at the very beginning with questions like:

- What does it mean to grow in Christ?
- How can I turn away from sin?
- How does prayer help me grow?

Maybe you've thought about these questions. That's great! It doesn't matter where you are right now—you can start growing in your walk with Jesus today.

I invite you to read through these devotions and pray along with the prayers at the end. You can also write out some thoughts to the reflection questions. While you're doing these things, you may not *feel* like your faith is growing. But if you keep it up for a few weeks, you'll notice some changes. Change will happen not because this is a cool new program or product; I believe you will grow because God wants you to! And all things are possible with God (Matt. 19:26).

Question 1

**What Does It
Mean to Grow
in Christ?**

DAY 1

Spiritually Born

Can you think of one way you are like one of your parents? Maybe you have the same hair color, sit the same way when you read a book, or laugh the same! It's amazing to see how God designed families and how children often reflect their parents. Children look and act like their parents because they come from them. They are born of their parents. Similarly, the Bible says Christians are *born of God*.

God's word says that being a Christian means that we are spiritually born. We must first be born into God's family, if we are going to grow as God's children: "To all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God" (John 1:12–13).

When we receive and believe all the Bible says about Jesus, he makes us God's children. Yet John says we become God's children differently than the way we become the children of our parents. Who is "born of God"? Everyone who receives and believes in the good news about Jesus. We believe in God; we belong to God. We are God's children.

The new birth—or regeneration—John describes is not according to our own ability or desires. Have you ever heard about someone giving birth to themselves? It's impossible! We cannot

Regeneration

The work of God the Holy Spirit that gives new life to spiritually dead sinners.

(Sometimes the Bible calls this “new birth” or “being born again.”)

become God’s children in our own strength or effort. God’s Spirit gives us a new heart and power to live like our Savior Jesus. Jesus saves us from our sins and makes us God’s children, and he also *shows* us how to live as his people.

Think about your own family. Even things like our favorite foods, sports teams, clothes, and hobbies are often shaped by our parents and

families. Jesus lived a perfect life, just the way his heavenly Father desired. As God’s children, we want to grow up to love what our heavenly Father loves and act in ways that reflect who he is.

So, what does it mean to grow in Christ? ***We grow in Christ when we are born again as God’s children and grow up to be like Jesus, God’s Son.*** Everyone who believes in the good news of Jesus is spiritually born of God, is called God’s child, and starts to grow up in his family.

PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for sending your Son Jesus to save me. I receive him as my Savior and believe that he is the true Son of God. Help me to grow in my faith as your child. Amen.

REFLECT

Are you a member of God's family? Have you received and believed what the Bible teaches about who Jesus is and what he has done?
