

## The Rest of Your Life Starts Now

### Day 2 – Grow Up

#### Scripture:

*“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind... and love your neighbor as yourself.”* — Gospel of Matthew 22:37–39

When people hear the word **membership**, many think about putting their name on a list.

Joining a club.

Signing a roster.

Checking a box.

But church membership is meant to be much deeper than that.

Membership in the church means **fellowship**.

It means **family**.

At my church we often say, **“You can’t do life alone.”** And that’s true. God never intended for us to walk through life or faith by ourselves.

But for some people, the word *family* can be uncomfortable. Some folks grow up in wonderful homes full of love and encouragement. Others grow up in families that were difficult, broken, or even painful.

So when someone talks about a **church family**, it can make a person hesitate.

But the family of God is different.

A church family is a place where people help each other grow.

It's a place where we pray for one another, encourage one another, and walk together through life's ups and downs. It's not perfect—because people aren't perfect—but it's a place where grace and growth are meant to happen.

And growth is exactly what faith is about.

Part of belonging to a church family is **maturing in your faith**.

Sometimes we look at ourselves and think, *I should be farther along than I am*. We may feel like we haven't grown as much as we should have.

But spiritual growth isn't something that happens overnight.

In fact, it's a lot like childbirth and growing up. Every one of us started life as an infant. Over the years we learned, we stumbled, we grew stronger, and we matured.

Faith works much the same way.

When you walk with Christ, you grow a little every day. You learn more about God. You learn more about yourself. And when temptation comes—as it does for everyone—the maturity of your faith can guide you toward reflection and toward the right path.

The truth is, **you never fully arrive** in your faith. Growth with God is a lifelong journey.

And that's one of the reasons church family matters so much.

Because along the way, you don't have to grow alone.

## **Prayer**

Lord, thank You for the gift of the church and the people who walk beside me in faith. Help me grow and mature in my relationship with You. Teach me to love others and support my church family the way You designed. Remind me that following You is a lifelong journey of growth. In Jesus Name We Pray, Amen.