

GROW RESOURCES

About

Before we get into the resources listed in this document, we should get clear on the big picture. Fundamentally, Jesus is the one in whom all the riches of God's grace and wisdom are given. Jesus was crucified for sin, rules over all things for the sake of the church, give us new life, the hope of eternal life, the Holy Spirit, and the forgiveness of sins and an answer to the devil's accusations. In Him, we are Holy, and we are therefore called to be Holy, which means being actively engaged in a lifelong battle in the power of the Holy Spirit.

In our frustration, we ask, "How am I supposed to grow! Nothing seems to work!" In our sinfulness, we can think that God is holding something back or that our sin is somehow his fault. The truth is Christian growth isn't some mysterious and slippery thing. God has given us three gifts for the battle:

1. His **Powerful Word** to guide and transform our hearts. The bible is the sword of the Spirit; the way God speaks, rules, guides and saves us. Jesus said: "Man does not live on bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God" In the garden, humanity threw off the authority of God's word, in the kingdom, the authority of God's word is reinstated. Those who meditate on God's word day and night grow like a tree planted by streams of living water; they grow and bear fruit.
2. Access to His throne room by **Prayer**. Jesus teaches that God is a "good father who knows how to give good gifts to his children", and James says, "we do not have because we do not ask". And so we say: "Good God, our loving heavenly father, please open our eyes to see the privilege and the power of prayer! Amen."
3. God's **People** who teach, encourage and pray for us. God saves people into a family of believers who bear one another's burdens and help one another grow as every member "speaks the truth in love". We belong to a network of churches and organisations around the world that can also be used to build us up and encourage us.

You grow by:

1. Renewing your mind by God's Word.
2. Asking God to change you in accordance with God's Word.
3. And doing this with the support and encouragement of fellow believers, especially within the local church.

Much love,

Andy and Mike

Bible Resources

Church Bibles

If you don't have a bible at home, take one from church. We won't mind!

Bible App

Physical bibles and taking physical notes is best for learning. Avoiding screen time where possible is helpful, but phones are convenient and they have their place. If you haven't already, download the YouVersion Bible app and have a look around. Heaps of reading plans available, including a Port Church specific one that follows the current sermon series. Why not start one with a friend?

Online Bibles

biblegateway.com

Quality audio available to listen while working.

<https://www.esv.org>

If you like the ESV. Audio available.

<https://netbible.org/bible>

Gives access to the original languages and translation notes. For the nerds.

Prayer Resources

PrayerMate App

You can tailor make your daily prayer schedule. Subscribe to a variety of organisations to receive regular prayer points and sign up to our churches prayer updates. They will come out every Monday and Wednesday.

Prayer Triplets

Satan gets very nervous when brothers and sisters gather to pray. If you'd like to start meeting in a prayer triplet, please talk to me. The bible tells us to confess our sins to one another and this is the most natural place to do that.

Prayer Meetings

First week of the month. Come along if you can.

Prayer and the Voice of God – Phillip Jensen. Good book.

A Call to Spiritual Reformation - Gold standard book on prayer.

Water of the word – written to help men pray for their wives. Good stuff

Our Father - Good book on the Lord's Prayer.

Prayer – Tim Keller. Good book.

People Resources

Port and Warrawong Churches

<https://www.pkw.org.au>

Your church family is the best people resource there is. God intends for us to learn from and submit to one another out of reverence for Christ so continue to invest in the lives of your church family and use the resources that are produced by your local pastors.

Matthias Media

We are subscribed to gotherfor.com which gives us access to all Matthias media bible study material. I will make relevant study guides for the sermon series available at church. Feel free to take them and use them to prepare for the sermon series. In general, this publisher offers the best books on most topics. It may be Australian but it true.

St Helen's Bishopsgate

<https://www.st-helens.org.uk/resources/all/type-study/>

Top-quality bible study guides from one of the best churches in the world.

The Gospel Coalition

tgc.org/courses

There is an abundance of brilliant resources, articles, lectures, courses from leading scholars, on pretty much anything you can think of. Got a question about something? You won't go far wrong if we come here.

Biblical Training

www.biblicaltraining.org

Quality online courses used around the world to train lay people and pastors.

Full Courses are in video and podcast format, notes and further reading included. Some of the best scholars in the are teaching seminary level subjects for free! Get around it!

Bible Project

<https://bibleproject.com>

I love the bible project for its literary and biblical theological approach to reading scripture. Brainchild of an OT scholar called Tim Mackie. High-quality production value.

Covenant Seminary Courses

<https://resources.covenantseminary.edu/>

Leading reformed seminary offers their online courses for free! Can't vouch for everything on here but I enjoyed the church history lecture I just listened to.