



CCN WEEKLY SOLUTIONS SERIES
THE WEEK OF APRIL 21, 2008



**How People Grow, 5:
Obedience, Sin, Temptation,
Truth, Activity, and Time**

Featuring

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author of How People Grow*

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I. Obedience

Obedience: turning our attention and listening to God

*Hear, O Israel: The LORD
our God, the LORD is one.
—Deuteronomy 6:4*

Obedience brings us life, healing, authenticity, freedom,
and more

External obedience and internal obedience

*“What sorrow awaits you teachers of
religious law and you Pharisees.
Hypocrites! For you are careful to
tithe even the tiniest income from
your herb gardens, but you ignore
the more important aspects of the
law—justice, mercy, and faith. You
should tithe, yes, but do not neglect
the more important things.”
—Matthew 23:23*

You have to pay attention to both

But the internal is the most important

Love, justice and mercy trump the other parts

II. Sin and temptation

Sin is a problem that gets in the way of life and connection
with God

*Noah was a righteous man, the
only blameless person living on
earth at the time, and he walked
in close fellowship with God.
—Genesis 6:9*

We’re responsible for it but can’t do anything about it

The Bible’s solution is that we can’t stop it: we need to be
saved from it

Types of sin:

Sin by me: selfishness, blame, hurting others, self-centeredness

Sin against me: when we’re wounded by someone else, controlled, judged

The world’s broken: things happen, but there’s no bad guy

The solution: God’s grace

To deal with your own sin:

Stop the excuses

Make your sin relational: how it affects people you care about

Temptation: Don’t fight it, flee it

III. The truth

Truth: a representation of reality

Truth adds structure to love

Sources of truth:

- The Bible
- Feedback from others
- God's voice
- Wise information

IV. Activity

Activity: taking initiative

The spiritual life isn't a passive existence, it's active

What's worse than failure? Not having lived

If you risk, you've got the safety of the Cross

Work out your salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.
—Philippians 2:12-13

V. Time

Time: the oven your life recipe is in

Time is your friend and does invisible work

God does the invisible stuff; we need to plant the seeds

Elements of what heals: Time + love + God + truth

Jesus also said, "The Kingdom of God is like a farmer who scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, while he's asleep or awake, the seed sprouts and grows, but he does not understand how it happens."
—Mark 4:26-27

Next week on *Solutions*: “Got Issues?”

Resources

How People Grow: What the Bible Reveals about Personal Growth

by Drs. Henry Cloud and John Townsend
www.cloudtownsend.com

Loving People

by Dr. John Townsend
www.cloudtownsend.com

Boundaries

By Drs. Henry Cloud and John Townsend
www.cloudtownsend.com

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