

Changing Lives – Week 4
My Spiritual Growth

August 29 & 30, 2009
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It's true, is it not, that the One who climbed up also climbed down, down to the valley of earth? And the One who climbed down is the One who climbed back up, up to highest heaven. He handed out gifts above and below, filled heaven with his gifts, filled earth with his gifts. He handed out gifts of apostle, prophet, evangelist, and pastor-teacher to train Christians in skilled servant work, working within Christ's body, the church, until we're all moving rhythmically and easily with each other, efficient and graceful in response to God's Son, fully mature adults, fully developed within and without, fully alive like Christ.

No prolonged infancies among us, please. We'll not tolerate babes in the woods, small children who are an easy mark for impostors.

*God wants us to **grow up**, to know the whole truth and tell it in love—like Christ in everything. We take our lead from Christ, who is the source of everything we do. He keeps us in step with each other. His very breath and blood flow through us, nourishing us so that we will **grow up healthy in God**, robust in love.*

Ephesians 4:9-16 (MSG)

VISION

(the vision of your life in God's Kingdom)

INTENTION

(your intention to be an apprentice of Jesus)

MEANS

(the examples and teachings of Jesus,
The Scriptures, and His People)

(taken from *Renovation of the Heart*, Dallas Willard)