

# Launching Spiritual Growth

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## I. Introduction.

A. Two passages: the restoration of the axe-head when it was lost (2 Kings 6), and Jesus being sought by his parents when he stayed in the temple (Luke 2:41-48).

1. What is common between these two passages is that something was lost and found.
2. Tragedy, concern, triumph.

B. The launching site for spiritual growth.

C. Death commences when growth ceases.

## II. Tragedy.

A. For both passages the cause of the loss was neglect.

1. The wielder of the axe was likely careless, but whatever the case was he lost it. (Ecclesiastes 10:10)
2. With their knowledge of Jesus Christ, it was careless for Mary and Joseph to assume the other had care of Him.
3. All we have to do to miss salvation is nothing. (Hebrews 2:3)
4. Sin comes from neglect - thorns and briars. (Proverbs 24:30-31)

B. Anything that causes us to depart from the Christian spiritual life is a tragedy. The spiritual life should be the one thing that never declines.

## III. Concern.

A. For both passages there was a concern for the ones who lost something.

1. The wielder of the axe's concern was that the axe was borrowed.
2. Mary and Joseph were quick to return from Jerusalem in order to get back to their tasks.

## IV. Triumph.

A. Regaining what was lost.

1. In both cases the question was, "Where?"

2. At the command of Elijah the axe-head came back on the handle. Jesus was found at the temple.

B. The question: how do we regain the highest experience in one's Christian life and move up from there?

1. We first have to go back to the place where we left off.

2. Restoration is a beautiful thing.

3. The Bible is a backslider's book - it is redirection for those who have fallen away.

4. There is restoration throughout the Bible. (2 Kings 5; Joel 2:25; Philemon; Luke 15)

5. If your life is going horizontal instead of vertical, go back to the point of separation for restoration.

C. Everybody has their own "Achilles' heel."

1. The speaker wrote the critical ones down.

2. God is interested in your spiritual growth.

D. The secret to making this the best week of your life is returning to the place of your greatest obedience before God.

### Application questions.

1. What main principle was the speaker trying to convey? How did he convey it?

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2. What is the value in going back to the point of departure in your spiritual life to recovering victory in your life?

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3. When was the last time you felt spiritual satisfaction in your relationship with God? What was it about that time that made you feel that way? How do you plan to reapply those principles to engage God more fully today?

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