

## Growing

### Int.

1. Aim: To show that a Christian must develop or grow!
2. I Peter 3:18 "But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen."
3. Are you stronger spiritually now than you were 1 year ago? 5 years ago? Why?
4. We cannot maintain a spiritual status quo.
  - a. God expects us to develop spiritually - inward Christian growth - Mature, grow up
  - b. Grow = keep on growing - like riding a bicycle - unless you keep moving you fall
  - c. Heb. 5:12 NKJV - "For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food."
5. Let us see why and how to grow spiritually - keep on growing and going

### Discussion

#### I. GROW UNTO SALVATION I Pet. 2:1-3

- A. "Putting away therefore all wickedness, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings," 1 Pet. 2:1 ASV
  1. V. 1 Before we can grow there are some things to expel from our life:
    - a. Malice = wickedness in ASV
    - b. Guile = deceit
    - c. Hypocrisies =
    - d. Envy = jealousy
    - e. Evil Speaking
    - f. SIN

2. I Pet. 2:2 NKJV "as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby,"
  - a. Newborn babes - New disciples - Children are teachable
  - b. Desire
    - (1) Eager desire to eat - Intensely crave and yearning for milk
    - (2) Appetites for spiritual food is not often as strong
    - (3) Babies do not have to be constantly urged and begged to seek the source of their life.
  - c. Spiritual Milk
    - (1) That which nourishes and sustains life
    - (2) It is without guile - no additions

## B. Grow unto Salvation

1. Thereby or there-in can we grow
  - a. Only in feeding on the proper spiritual food can we grow and develop
  - b. This is the purpose of feeding!
2. Something is wrong when we do not grow - stunted Christians - midgets
3. Spiritual immaturity is what we have when there is no spiritual growth
4. Heb. 5:12-14 - Grow unto Salvation
  - a. To be nourished - Woods
  - b. Grow up until you reach salvation - Barclay
  - c. Eternal salvation is based on man's obedience to God's commands
5. Only in feeding on spiritual food can growth unto salvation occur.
6. II Pet. 1:10-11

## C. If eternal salvation is important, then spiritual growth is important.

II. **GROW IN GRACE** - II Pet. 3:18 "But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen."

A. Grace

1. Definition - "That which bestows or occasions pleasure, delight, or causes favorable regard." Vine
2. Used to describe a condition where one stands in the Lord's favor.
3. One who is in God's favor - or grace, shall grow and develop in God's grace.

B. How can we grow in the Lord's Favor?

1. Stand Fast in God's true grace I Pet. 5:12
  - a. It is possible to fall from God's grace Gal. 5:4
  - b. We use the terms: "in the dog house" Or "not in one's good graces"
  - c. We can fall short of the grace of God. Heb. 12:15 ASV "looking carefully lest there be any man that falleth short of the grace of God;"
  - d. A person who stands fast in God's grace is obedient to God's truth I Pet. 1:13-14
2. One who "stands fast in grace" will be in a position to grow in God's Grace
  - a. Heb.11:5 - Enoch had God's favor for he was well pleasing - "By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and he was not found, because God translated him: for he hath had witness borne to him that before his translation he had been well-pleasing unto God:" ASV
  - b. II Pet. 1:5-11 - the Christian graces cause us to grow in God's favor!
  - c. The Righteous please God - I Pet. 3:12

### **III. GROW IN KNOWLEDGE** - II Pet. 3:18

#### A. Importance of Knowledge -

1. It is essential to becoming righteous
  - a. I Pet. 3:12 - righteous please the Lord
  - b. We must have a knowledge of the way of righteousness to be righteous
  - c. We must work righteousness" to be righteous Acts 10:34-35
2. Gain strength to withstand temptation and sin
  - a. Mt. 4:1-11 "It is written" - thus saith Lord
  - b. Ps. 119:11

#### B. The damage caused by ignorance - Hosea 4:6

1. It leads to lust and lust produces sin
  - a. I Pet. 1:14
  - b. Jas. 1 :12-14
2. Those who are unlearned twist the scriptures
  - a. II Pet. 3:16
  - b. It causes their destruction

#### C. We must grow In knowledge so we will remember the promise of God. II Pet. 3:9-14

## **CONCLUSION**

1. The requirements for Growth
  - a. Nourishment I Pet. 2:2
  - b. Exercise I Tim. 4:8
  - c. Free from disease
    - i. I Pet. 2:1
    - ii. "Lay aside" - wickedness, guile, Hypocrisies, envies, a evil speakings.
2. Goal of spiritual growth is eternal salvation in heaven - I Pet. 2:3
3. Lack of growth means we are weak and ready to fall - II Pet. 3:17
4. Choice (1) Grow spiritually or (2) Have spiritual decay and death!!
5. Indications of spiritual growth
  - a. Regular attendance - Heb. 10:24-25
  - b. Cheerful - liberal giving - II Cor. 8:1-15 9:7
  - c. Growing confidence in your salvation - II Tim. 1:12 4:6-8
  - d. Growing desire to go to heaven - Col. 3:2
  - e. Growing knowledge of God's word - II Pet. 3:18
  - f. Constant prayer life - I Thes. 5:17
  - g. Growing respect for the eldership - I Tim. 5:17 Heb. 13:17
  - h. Increasing love for souls - Rom. 1:14-16
  - i. Producing of fruit - Gal. 5:22-23
  - j. Involvement in God's work - I Cor. 15:58
  - k. Growing more like Christ - I Pet. 2:21
6. 2 Pet. 3:18
7. ARE YOU GROWING?

## Sources

The Key of Knowledge - Thomas H. Holland p, 92

Commentaries - Woods and Clarkes

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