

**GROWING IN GRACE**  
"The Foundation of Spiritual Growth"  
**2 Peter 3:18**

**INTRODUCTION:**

**1. HERE'S WHAT WE KNOW!!!**

a) As Born-Again Christians we have Christ abiding IN us.

1) *Colossians 1:27*

2) *2 Corinthians 13:5*

3) *Romans 8:16*

b) **THEREFORE**, Spiritual Growth is expected.

2. Our challenge as Christians is to Maximize what we already have.

a) Christ wants to live His life through us.

1) *1 Corinthians 2:9*

**3. 2 Peter 3:18**

a) Therefore, we **MUST** Grow Spiritually.

4. **GRACE** is God's inexhaustible supply of goodness whereby He does for you what you could never do yourself.

a) *Colossians 2:6*

5. **KNOWLEDGE** of the **WORD OF GOD** is crucial, but it must get connected to the living reality of Jesus Christ.

**6. 1 Corinthians 10:31**

7. This New Birth takes place the moment a person receives Christ as Savior.

a) *John 3:1-7*

8. This birth takes place @ **CONVERSION** when a lost sinner places his or her faith in Jesus Christ alone for the forgiveness of sin and the gift of eternal life.

9. **THE NEW BIRTH** or **CONVERSION** results in the imparting of a New Nature to replace the Sinful Nature.

10. When we talk about the Building Blocks of Spiritual Growth, **CONVERSION** is **FOUNDATIONAL**.

**11. 2 Peter 1:3-4**

a) If you are a Christian, you have a new **NATURE** within you, that is from God.

## I. THE BIG DEAL ABOUT CONVERSION

### 1. *Romans 5:12*

2. When Adam and Eve sinned against God, their innocence was lost, and they became corrupted by sin.

a) AND a sin Nature was deposited in Adam and Eve and a Sin Nature, became a part of all humanity and was transmitted to every one of our descendants.

3. This aspect of our nature is so pervasive that it makes everything we do, unacceptable to God.

4. So now - Sinful human beings cannot approach God in their own power, let alone **GROW SPIRITUALLY** closer to Jesus.

a) *2 Samuel 11:1-6*

b) *Psalms 51:1-5*

### 5. *Isaiah 64:6*

### 6. *1 Corinthians 2:14*

### 7. *John 3:7*

a) Nicodemus learned that religion was not enough.

## II. WHAT CONVERSION LOOKS LIKE

- *2 Peter 1:4*

### A. A NEW NATURE

#### 1. *Romans 6:1-6*

2. Salvation is the process whereby God deposits within every believer a NEW NATURE that is from Christ, and it is **PERFECT**.

3. The Old Sin Nature that dominated us and kept the life of God from flowing through us has been put to death, and in its place is a NEW NATURE from God that the Bible says cannot sin.

a) *1 John 3:9*

#### 4. *ROMANS 6:7-12*

#### 5. *Romans 7:17, 23-24*

**6. 1 Corinthians 15:33-34**

7. The moment you received Christ, everything became new on the inside.  
a) **2 Corinthians 5:17**

**B. THE NEED FOR NOURISHMENT**

1. If you have had a **TRUE CONVERSION EXPERIENCE!!**  
a) **CHRIST IS IN YOU!!**
2. AND that New Nature has Perfect DNA for you to become Christlike.
3. **SPIRITUAL GROWTH** is the process of nurturing and developing a new nature that God implanted in your heart @ the deepest core of your being.
4. **1 John 3:9**
5. **LISTEN UP:** When you are **GROWING SPIRITUALLY** - Your **GROWTH** will become evident to others.

**III. AT SALVATION YOU ARE COMPLETE**

**A. THERE WILL BE NEW STRUGGLES**

1. Because your NEW heart and mind will conflict with your old desires.  
a) Because they are diabolically opposed to each other.
2. **Romans 7:15-17, 25**  
a) Paul's struggle was intense.
3. **GOD IS IN THE INTERRUPTIONS**  
a) "**Heal the Wounds**" - Point of Grace
  - 1) Joseph
  - 2) King David
  - 3) Mary and Joseph
4. That's why our greatest times of Spiritual Growth are almost always in times of our greatest trials.

**B. A NEW APPETITE**

1. **Hebrews 10:14-16**

2. Your **NEW NATURE** craves intimacy and fellowship with God and it **DESIRES** to **PLEASE HIM** more than anything else.

3. *Galatians 5:16*

4. We still sin...because we still live at this same old address.

a) But we will have a new sensitivity to **SPIRITUAL** things, that will cause an intense **STRUGGLE**.

5. **BUT** when we **FEED** our **NEW APPETITE** with the **WORD**, we will enjoy immense **SATISFACTION**.

## **CONCLUSION:**

1. **WHEN IT'S ALL SAID AND DONE**

2. **SPIRITUAL GROWTH STARTS ON THE INSIDE OF US.**

3. **SPIRITUAL GROWTH** is the process of expanding and releasing what is on the inside.