

GROWING IN GRACE
"Why We Must Grow Spiritually"
2 Peter 3:18

INTRODUCTION:

1. One of the greatest tragedies of the 20th century was the sinking of the Titanic.
2. **2 Peter 3:18**
 - a) ***"But grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ"***
 - 1) That is a command!!
3. This new series is about Spiritual Growth, and God expects us to grow.
 - a) If you are truly a Born-Again Christian, **you have life abiding in you.**
4. **THIS IS BIG:** The Grace that saved you, is the Grace that will transform you as you grow.
 - a) **Spiritual Growth is guaranteed.**
5. **Galatians 4:18-19**

I. THE NECESSITY OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH

1. Getting a handle on Spiritual Growth is crucial for @ least 2 reasons.
 - a) **First** - It is God's command that we Grow.
 - 1) And that means it is God's will.
 - b) **Second** - The opposite of Growth is stagnation and stunted growth.
2. A good definition of Spiritual Growth:
 - a) **"It is the transformation process by which we allow the indwelling Christ to increasingly express Himself in and through us, bringing God greater glory and experience His greater good for ourselves."**
3. Spiritual Growth is more of Christ being expressed in my life through less of me.
 - a) **John 3:30**

A. GROWTH DEMANDS NOURISHMENT

1. **1 Peter 2:2**
2. The issue of a newborn baby is growth.

3. Spiritual Growth is not a program or curriculum, **but the nourishment and development of a life.**
4. **The goal of Spiritual Growth** is to feed the life you were given by the Holy Spirit @ the moment of your conversion.
 - a) **1 Peter 2:1-2**
 - b) **Ephesians 4:15**
5. **Very Important:** Your Spiritual DNA is complete because you got the Life of Christ @ your conversion, and nothing can be added to Christ!!
 - a) **When you got saved you got all of Jesus you will ever have!!**
6. **NOW WATCH THIS:** Our challenge as Christians is to **maximize** what we **already have.**

B. GROWTH IS DEPENDANT ON A RELATIONSHIP

1. A baby depends on his/her mother for the nourishment needed to grow.
2. Before birth the baby draws nourishment from the mother through the umbilical cord.
 - a) The mother's life supplying life to the baby.
 - b) If that relationship is disrupted, the baby is in serious trouble.
3. **John 10:10**
4. **1 Corinthians 2:9**
5. So, if we are not experiencing the abundant life, then maybe it's because we messed up our relationship with Him or traded it for something less.
6. Spiritual growth is progressively learning to **let Christ live His life through us,** and that only happens through relationship.

II. WHAT IT TAKES TO GROW SPIRITUALLY

1. **2 Peter 3:18**
 - a) **"But grow in Grace and Knowledge"**
2. Grace and Knowledge work together to enhance our growth.
3. Our growth is connected to the person of Jesus Christ.
 - a) The One whose life flows through our spiritual veins.

A. THE SUBSTANCE OF GRACE

1. **Simple definition of Grace:** *Is God's inexhaustible supply of goodness whereby He does for you what you could never do for yourself.*
2. It is a gift that can only be received and enjoyed, not earned.
3. **Colossians 2:6**
4. Grace is all that God is FREE to do for you based on the work of Jesus Christ on your behalf.
5. **NOW LISTEN UP:** When we think of growth, it **suggests effort on our part**, while grace is a gift that can only be received and enjoyed, not earned.
6. **Colossians 2:6**

B. PUT KNOWLEDGE TO WORK

1. **2 Peter 3:18**
 - a) *"But grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ"*
2. Peter tells us as believers to grow in the knowledge of Jesus Christ.
3. **VERY IMPORTANT:** We have everything we need to put the ingredients of knowledge to work in our lives.
4. Information about the Christian faith is crucial!!!

III. WHAT SPIRITUAL GROWTH PRODUCES

1. **2 Peter 3:18**
 - a) *"To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity."*
2. **VERY IMPORTANT:** Please write this down!!!!
 - a) *"God is passionate about His GLORY"!!!*
3. Because God is passionate about His GLORY, He wants us to KNOW Him, and SEEK Him, and GROW in Him.
 - a) **WHY?** Because we are to be people through which He can express Himself and **DISPLAY** His Magnificent Glory.

A. THE REASON WE WERE CREATED

1. The goal of Spiritual Growth is to expand and increase our capacity to bring God Glory.

2. **GOD EXISTS FOR HIS GLORY!!!**

a) The definition of *Glory*: means to be heavy or weighty...wow.

b) It is to manifest His PERFECT character, especially His righteousness.

3. **Romans 3:23**

a) God defines sin as a failure to bring *Glory* to God.

4. **LISTEN UP:** We are not sinners because we do bad things, but because in our sin we fail to live up to the purpose for which God created us...**which is to Glorify Him.**

5. **Romans 1:18ff**

6. *Glory* also has to do with the way that something attracts attention to Him and to promote Him as worthy of all praise and adoration.

7. God wants to go public, and our FULL-TIME job is to make Him visible to the world, so that they might come to Him.

B. IT MUST BECOME YOUR PASSION

1. Is it your passion to live for **GOD'S GLORY?**

2. Once you make God's *Glory* your passion your whole life will be consumed with God's *Glory*.

3. **1 Corinthians 10:31**

4. WHEN YOU ARE PASSIONATE ABOUT YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST and committed to bringing Him *GLORY*, your Spiritual life will grow at a speed you never imagined possible.

CONCLUSION: SO WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU AND ME?

1. **Luke 18:28**

a) So now what?

2. Luke 18:29-30

a) Think about that promise.

3. Matthew 6:33

4. 1 Corinthians 2:9

5. Romans 8:28 (the Promise)-29 (the Benefit)