

# THE IMPORTANCE OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH

AUGUST 12, 2018

2 Peter 3:10-18

*2 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.*

**Introduction:** In the verses we have read we find the Apostle Peter encouraging the Christians of those days to **stand firm** for the sure coming of Christ—the Christ who would come as the thief in the night. Peter's motivation was so that when Christ would come, He will not find them unprepared, asleep, discouraged, and above all outside the will of God.

And here is the reason why the Apostle tells all these things to these Christians, *vs. 17 Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness.*

**Stedfastness:** *stability, firmest-* having a solid, almost unyielding surface or structure

THE TRUE MEASURE OF SUCCESS IN LIFE CANNOT BE COUNTED IN DOLLARS AND CENTS OR IN PHYSICAL OR MENTAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS. THE TRUE AND ETERNAL MEASURE OF LIFE IS FOUND IN GROWTH IN A CHRISTLIKE CHARACTER.

## I. DO WE NEED TO GROW?

A. The word "Grow" means CONTINUOUS ACTION

*1Co 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding (Growing, Increasing, Continuously) in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.*

- It is God's will for all of His children to continuously be growing.
- A mother would be justly alarmed if her baby showed no signs of growth.
- A farmer would be dismayed if his crops never growth.
- The day we stop growing is the day will start dying.

## 2. REMEMBER THAT THE FIRST LAW OF LIFE IS EXPANSION.

- Either we grow or decay
- We advance or regress
- We live or die

*1Corinthians 9:24 Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.*

*Philippians 3:12-14 Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. vs13 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, vs 14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.*

### 3. HOW CAN WE GROW?

#### A. Naturally

*Mat 6:28-29* And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, **how they grow**; they toil not, neither do they spin: vs29 And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

- Growth is normal and inevitable when there is divine life within.
- A healthy life will automatically or naturally grow

#### B. In the correct ENVIRONMENT

- A plant cannot grow away from the sun.

*Joh 15:4-7* **Abide in me**, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it **abide in the vine**; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. Vs 5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. Vs 6 If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. Vs 7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

- A child of God must be rooted in the word of God in order to grow.

#### C. By Eating the right food

- All living things eat and what we eat affects our growth
- We all must watch what we intake into our bodies

*1Peter 2:2* As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

*Jeremiah 15:16* Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O LORD God of hosts.

### 4. WHY IS IT SO IMPORTANT TO GROW?

#### A. To live a holy life while we are here

*2Peter 3:11* Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,

- It is God's will for us to live in this world holy.

*2Peter 3:14* Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.

#### B. To be ready for his coming

*2Pe 3:12-13* Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? **Vs-13** Nevertheless we, according to his

*promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.*

**C. To not be move from the right doctrine**

*Peter 3:16-17 As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction. vs17 Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own stedfastness.*