

BACK TO THE BEGINNING INTRODUCTION

It is important in every believer's life to go back – to go back and review the basics of their Christianity. Spiritual growth is one of the most basic topics a believer can study in the Word of God.

Peter taught that we are to grow in grace, and not only in grace, but in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ (cf. II Peter 3:18). As newborn babes desire milk, we as Christians should desire the pure milk of the word. And why should we desire the pure milk of the word? That we may grow by it (cf. I Peter 2:2).

A person doesn't grow into a Christian; conversion is not a process of growth. Conversion is an act of God (by all rights it is a miracle), whereby He, that is God, births you into His family. It is not until you are born into God's family that you can grow.

Some people have been saved for a long period of time but they have grown very little. They have the language, they have the zeal, they have the emotion, but it is evident they do not have the growth. The issue is not knowledge alone but what you do with what you know. Paul taught that knowledge with some people only puffs them up – it fills them with pride (cf. 1 Corinthians 8:1). Pride can retard spiritual growth. It is only when knowledge conforms us to the image of Christ that it will help us grow.

One writer said, "Spiritual growth is not mystical, sentimental, devotional, or psychological. It's not the result of some clever secret or formula. It is simply matching your practice with your position."

It is not necessary that you do something profound to grow. Growth is a process, and in this process it is the simple things that stimulate good and healthy growth. Some people base their spiritual growth on having served on a committee, sung in the choir, or been very active in the church.

They assume that if they're busy, they must be spiritual. The Pharisees were busy, busy with religion, and no one was further from being spiritual than they were. Being busy and serving will not bring proper maturity.

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