

Six False Views of Christian Growth
Galatians 3:3

- 1. The key to Christian growth is learning to live like a Jew (focusing on obeying God's law in the Hebrew Scriptures).**

Matthew 28:20; Galatians 2:14; 5:16, 25; Ephesians 5:1-2; Philippians 2:5; Colossians 1:28; Galatians 6:2; James 1:25, 2:12; Ephesians 4:13; Colossians 3:12-17, 11

- 2. Growing Christians only need the New Testament, not the Old Testament.**

Luke 24:27; John 5:39; Romans 15:4; 1 Corinthians 10:11, 9:10
2 Timothy 3:16 *All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness.*

- 3. Christian growth results in a right standing before God (justification).**

Titus 3:5; Ephesians 2:8-9; Galatians 2:16; Romans 4:5

- 4. All that really matters is getting saved; Christian growth is optional.**

James 2:14, 18, 24

Revelation 19:6-8

- 5. The key to Christian growth is effort.**

Galatians 3:2-5; 2:16, 20

- 6. Christian growth happens by faith alone.**

2 Pet. 1:3, 5, 10 *His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence ... For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge... Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall.*

Heb. 6:11 *And we desire each one of you to show the same earnestness to have the full assurance of hope until the end,*

Eph. 4:22-24 *put off your old self ... be renewed in the spirit of your minds ... put on the new self*

Col. 3:5 *Put to death therefore what is earthly in you...*

Titus 2:14 *who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.*

If Christian growth is by faith, not the energy of our self-effort (#5); and yet if it definitely does involve our effort and our work (#6), then we:

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- _____

Conclusion

Since Jesus paid it all, I know that I receive salvation by faith alone (#3), not through my works of spiritual growth. But because true salvation results in loving obedience to my Savior (#4), I put diligent effort into spiritual growth (#6) - yet not the kind of effort that depends upon my own strength (#5). Rather, I work hard to depend on Him by praying and seeking His promises in His word so that I might grow by hearing with faith. I feed my heart with all of the Scriptures (#2), focusing not on the Old Covenant Law itself but on the gospel principles in all of the Bible that point me to Jesus (#1).

As the Lord [Jesus] has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.... Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.... Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.... Do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus.... Christ is all (Col. 3:13-17, 11).