

“The Goal Of Spiritual Growth!”
1 Peter 2:1-3

Introduction:

1. **IE:** We Have Probably All Heard The Old Adage: “If You Aim At Nothing, You Will Hit It Every Time!”
 - This Is Why It Is Important To Have Something To Aim At!
 - A Goal! In Every Part Of Your Life!
 - Goals Are Important! And One Goal In Particular Is Very Common!
 - What Does A Farmer & A Parent Have In Common? They Have The Same Goal!
 - What Is The Primary Goal For A Farmer?
 - The Goal For A Farmer Is Growth!
 - Why Else Would He Spend So Much Time, Energy & Money Planting Seeds Into The Ground?
 - What Is The Primary Goal For A Parent?
 - The Goal For A Parent Is Growth!
 - So That Their Children Can Become Godly & Productive Citizens!
 - The Goal These 2 Groups Have In Common Is: Growth!
 - No Farmer Wants His Crops To Remain A Seed!
 - No Parent Wants His Child To Remain A Baby!
 - Growth Is One Of The Most Exciting Things About Being A Parent!
 - And If There Is No Growth:
 - It Is A Sign That There Are Some Major Problems!
2. It Is No Different For Us In Our Christian Life!
 - We Need A Goal!
 - And Peter Tells Us What This Goal Is In 2:1-3!
 - Read Passage!
 - The Goal For A Christian Is Growth!
 - This Should Be Our Goal – Because This Is God’s Goal!
 - And God Knows What You & I Need To Grow!
 - **IE:** A Parent Knows What A Child Needs In Order To Grow! Last Night, Many Children Celebrated Halloween By “Trick Or Treating” - Their Goal - Get As Much Candy As They Can! And Then, Eat As Much As They Can! A Parent Knows Better! Knows What A Child Needs For Growth! Provides What A Child Needs For Growth! Not Just Candy!
 - God Knows & Has Provided What You Need In Order To Grow!
 - 2 Peter 1:3 - He Has: “Given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness!”
 - What Does A Christian Need To Grow? Peter Points Out:
 - The Spirit Of God!
 - 1:1; 1:12; 1:22!
 - The Word Of God! This Is His Focus Here!
 - 1:23; 2:2 - “The sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby!”
3. A Christian Can Only Grow In Connection With The Word Of God!
 - Described As: “The Sincere Milk Of The Word!”
 - Or The “Pure Spiritual Milk” Or “Pure Milk Of The Soul!”
 - This Is What We Need To Grow!
 - Because It Is Clear! And Understandable!
 - Because It Is Clean! And Pure / Unadulterated!
 - Because It Is Critical! “The Divinely Given Nourishment Supplied By The Gospel!” (Selwyn)
 - The Goal For A Christian Should Be Growth!
 - And This Growth Can Only Be Found In Connection With The Word Of God!
4. Are You Growing?
 - Is There An Ongoing Development & Maturity As A Christian?
 - Tell In Your Treatment Of The Word Of God!

* In Order To Grow:

1. ***There Must Be An Application Of The Word Of God!*** Is There?
 - You Will Never Grow As A Christian, If You Are Not Applying To Your Own Life What You Have

Already Heard From God's Word!

- 2:1 - "Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings!"
 - This Is Application – Plain & Simple!
 - What Kind Of Application Is Necessary To Grow?
- An Application That Is Primary!
 - "Wherefore!" – "Therefore!"
 - After Hearing What Has Just Been Communicated & Commanded – Application Will Be The Normal & Natural Response Of A Christian!
 - Primary Desire: To Hear / Obey / Apply God's Word!
 - He Just Got Through Giving Them 3 Specific Commands!
 - Live A Life Of Holiness! (1:13)
 - Live A Life Of Fear! (1:17)
 - Live A Life Of Love! (1:22)
 - Now, Your Primary Responsibility Is To Apply / Obey What You Have Heard To Your Life! Have You?
 - ***"If You Don't Apply What You Already Know – You Will Never Be Able To Continue To Grow!"***
- An Application That Is Personal!
 - Peter Then Lists 5 Things That Are "Relationship Killers!"
 - Remember What The Last Command Was In Chapter 1?
 - 1:22 - "See That Ye Love One Another With A Pure Heart Fervently!"
 - If You Practice The Things In 2:1, Then You Are Not Obeying This Command! These Are The Opposite Of Love!
 - And You Cannot / Will Not Grow!
 - Because You Have Not Started Applying To Your Life What God Has Already Told You!
- An Application That Is Practical! Application Is Very Practical!
 - How Do You Know If You Are Applying The Command To Love?
 - You Are: "Laying Aside" These Sinful Practices!
 - To "Put Off" / "Cast Off" A Piece Of Clothing!
 - Breaking Away From These Sins:
 - Definitely / Decisively / Dramatically!
 - Cast Away Your Sinful Attitude!
 - "All Malice" – A Feeling Of Ill-Will Toward Another Christian! Not Wanting What Is Best!
 - Cast Away Your Sinful Advantage!
 - "All Guile" – Manipulation & Deception To Use People For Your Own Advantage & Personal Gain!
 - Cast Away Your Sinful Acting!
 - "Hypocrisies" – Living A Lie – Not Being / Saying / Acting As You Really Are – Two Faced!
 - 1:22 - Our Love Is To Be "Unfeigned!"
 - Cast Away Your Sinful Animosity!
 - "Envies" – "Feeling Of Discontentment & Resentment" Toward Other Christians & What They Have!
 - Cast Away Your Sinful Address!
 - "All Evil Speakings!" – Things Spoken To Tear Down & Not Build Up – We Are To Edify! Not "Edify!"
 - Ephesians 4:29 - "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers!"
 - If You Are Not Growing – It Is Because There Is No Application Of God's Word In Your Life!
- Is Your Goal As A Christian To Grow?
 - ***In Order To Grow, You Must Apply What You Know!***

* In Order To Grow:

2. ***There Must Be An Appetite For The Word Of God!*** Is There?

- Growth Will Only Come Through God's Word!
 - 2:2 - "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby!"
 - To Grow: You Need An Appetite For God's Word!
 - What Kind Of Appetite?
- An Appetite From Poverty!
 - "As Newborn Babes!"
 - You Need To See Your Need For God's Word, Before You Will Be Hungry For It!
 - Otherwise, You Will Remain Content Without It!
 - As A "Newborn Babe"
 - You Cannot Feed Yourself! You Must Be Fed!
 - You Don't Know What You Need! It Must Be Given To You!
 - If You Are Full & Satisfied With Everything Else This World Offers – You Will Not Be Hungry For God's Word!
- An Appetite Of Passion!
 - "Desire!"
 - To Long For! With Fervency & Passion!
 - **IE:** Like A Baby "Desiring" Its Milk! He Lets You Know It! And Won't Stop Until He's Full!
 - We Need To "Hunger & Thirst" For God's Word This Way!
 - Don't Settle For Anything Else! Nothing Else Will Truly Satisfy & Strengthen!
 - What Is This Like?
 - Psalm 119:97 - "O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day!"
- An Appetite For Purity!
 - "Desire The Sincere Milk Of The Word!"
 - Or The Pure Milk Of The Soul! The Only Thing That Will Help You Grow!
 - "This Milk Is Nothing But The Gospel!" (Selwyn)
 - We Are To Move On In Our "Taste" For Meat!
 - Hebrews 5:14 - "But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil!"
 - But We Must Never Get Over Our Desire For The Milk!
 - The Fundamental / Foundational Truths Of The Gospel! ("Jesus Loves Me This I Know!")
- An Appetite With Purpose!
 - "That Ye May Grow Thereby!"
 - The Goal Of A Christian Is To Grow!
 - You Will Only Grow / Develop / Mature When You Have This Kind Of Appetite For The Word Of God!
 - And Then Apply Its Commands & Principles To Your Life!
 - You Will Only Grow Through The Message & The Ministry Of The Word Of God!
 - Reading / Studying / Teaching / Preaching!
 - If You Are Not Growing – It Is Because You Have No Appetite For The Word Of God!
- Is Your Goal As A Christian To Grow?
 - Then You Must Have This Kind Of Appetite For God's Word! "Desire The Sincere Milk Of The Word!"

* In Order To Grow:

3. *There Must Be An Acceptance Of The Word Of God!* Is There?

- Peter Now Reminds Us That This Application & Appetite Will Only Be In The Life Of Genuine Christians!
 - 2:3 - "If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious!"
 - You May Have No Spiritual Growth:
 - Because You Have No Spiritual Life!
 - This Is Where It Starts!
 - You Can't Expect A Flower Without A Seed!
 - You Can't Expect Growth Without Life!
 - To Grow: You Must First Have Accepted The Message Of The Word Of God – The Gospel!
- Have You Accepted The Ground Of The Gospel?

- "If So Be"
- You Will Only Apply God's Word & Have An Appetite For God's Word When You Have Accepted The Gospel Message!
 - You Are A Sinner & Deserve Death!
 - Jesus Is A Savior & Offers Life!
 - "Nothing In My Hand I Bring, Simply To Thy Cross I Cling!" (Augustus Toplady)
- Have You Accepted The Goal Of The Gospel?
 - "Ye Have Tasted!"
 - To Personally Experience The Truth Of The Gospel Message! Not Someone Else's Experience: Not Your Pastor's / Parent's / Brother's / Sister's / Friend's! Your Own! Have You Tasted?
 - Luther - "It Is Said To Be Tasted When I Believe With My Heart That Christ Gave Himself For Me, And Has Become My Own, And My Sin And Misery Are His, And His Life Also Is Mine!"
 - Uses The Sense Of Taste!
 - Only Sense To Take The Object Inside!
 - You Can Hear / See / Feel / Smell – Object Stays Outside! But When You Taste – You Bring The Object Into Yourself & It Becomes A Part Of You!
 - This Is God's Goal For The Gospel!
 - For You To Personally Accept Jesus Christ As Your Lord & Savior! This Is Where Growth Starts!
 - ***There Is No Spiritual Growth Without Spiritual Life!***
- Have You Accepted The Goodness Of The Gospel?
 - "That The Lord Is Gracious!"
 - Reminding Us Of Psalm 34:8 - "O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him!"
 - There Is Nothing As Sweet & Strengthening As The Lord!
 - Psalm 36:7 - "How excellent is thy lovingkindness, O God!"
 - Zechariah 9:17 - "For how great is his goodness, and how great is his beauty!"
- If You Are Not Growing – It May Be Because You Have Never Personally Accepted & Received The Message Of God's Word!
 - The Gospel Of His Son, Jesus Christ!
 - This Is Where It Must Begin!
 - ***There Is No Spiritual Growth Without Spiritual Life!***

Conclusion:

1. Do You Have Spiritual Growth As Your Goal?
 - If You Are A Christian – You Should!
 - If You Do:
 - Remember: It Will Only Come Through The Word Of God – "The Pure Milk Of The Soul!"
2. How Can You Grow?
 - There Must Be An Application Of God's Word!
 - There Must Be An Appetite For God's Word!
 - There Must Be An Acceptance Of God's Word!
3. Now, Are You Prepared To Grow?
 - 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!"
 - Growth Is To Be The Goal Of A Christian!

Grace Baptist Church
Stephen Elmer, Pastor
4245 North 200 West
Greenfield, Indiana 46140
317-326-2362
www.sermonaudio.com/wordofgrace
www.growatgrace.org
pastor-elmer@hotmail.com