

The New Life in Christ has the potential for spiritual growth, and we see growth expressed in our every day lives.

The Christian Life Growth – A carnally behaved Christian is called a baby (1 Cor. 3:1-3). Christians should never remain a spiritual infant. God desires for believers to grow.

Key verse: 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.”

Galatians 6:7-8 – “Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. (v.8) For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.” – Living under the domination of the flesh and of sin will hinder spiritual growth.

1 Peter 2:1-2 – “Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, (v.2) As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:” – In the Christian life we are we are either progressing or retrogressing, but there is no standing still.

1. The Definition of Growth in the Christian Life:

- A. We develop the fruit of the Spirit in our character: (Jn. 3:30; 2 Cor. 9:8; Col. 1:10; 1 Thess. 3:12; 2 Thess. 1:3).
- B. The Spiritual life is quantitative growth (not qualitative), it is absolute. Growing in faith and love means experiencing these more often rather than experiencing them much better. It is a matter of frequency than refinement.
- C. The Holy Spirit produces this growth as we cooperate with Him and allow Him to do this work in our life.

2. The Goal of Growth in the Christian Life:

- A. To become increasingly Christ-like. (Eph. 4:11-16)
- B. The Christian Life Growth will be completed when our bodies are made like Jesus' glorified body (Col. 3:4; Phil. 3:20-21; 1 Jn. 3:2)

3. The Means of Growth in the Christian Life:

- A. God's word. (Ps. 1:1-3; Jn. 6:63; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 1 Pet. 2:1-2)
- B. Obedience to God's word. (Rom. 1:17; Gal. 2:20; 5:25)
- C. Avoiding sin and the domination of sin. (Gal. 5:19-21)

The greatest helper in our growth is the Spirit and the greatest hindrance to our growth is sin!