

Know why you believe and how to grow in it- Pt 2

Hebrews 11:6

- Last week we talked about the importance of knowing **what you believe** and how we are to share it. Today we'll examine **why we believe**, and how understanding this process produces spiritual growth. Its interesting how growth is a trait that God chose to determine whether we are healthy both physically and spiritually, as in the natural once we mature so do our **limbs, organs, and bodies**, the same goes for the spiritual, from our **attitudes, character, and decision making**, all show that we are growing in our walk with God.

V6

- Which is why faith and growth and go hand in hand > **Heb 11:6**- we see two important factors about faith, **1st** to believe that God is, in **Ex 3:14** Moses asked God if any of the Israelites asks Who sent me what am I to say, and God responded "**I Am that I Am**". In other words God says "**I Am whatever you need**" if you feel alone God is closer than a brother, if you are in need He is "**Jehovah Jireh**"- "The Lord will provide, if your lost, He is "**Jehovah Rohi**"- God our Shepherd, if your confused He is "**Jehovah Shalom**"- God our peace.
- **2nd** those who diligently seek Him He will reward them- not them who casually look, that take a quick glance and if He doesn't show Himself quit looking, but the ones who know their needs are so great that only He can heal them, so they seek until they find Him. You see many people profess to believe in God, but because they don't believe that He rewards those who seek Him, they seek Him halfheartedly if at all, and that displeases God.
- After this verse we read a long list of people who actually did believe tat God is and therefore diligently sought Him and He rewarded them greatly, men like Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Joseph, Moses, women like Rahab, the Shunammite woman, who's son was raised from the dead, all these people exhibited faith in God and it produced growth in them.
- This is why we believe > because our faith in God grows when we have **both the desire to please Him** and the **diligence to seek Him**. This is where the hunger to worship God stems from, now there may be different circumstances that cause a person's desire to please God and have the diligence to seek Him, but make no mistake about it, in order to draw closer to God and grow in our faith these two things must be ever present in our lives.
- **Col 2:6-8**- Paul writes this letter from prison and in these three verses he compares the Christian life to a pilgrimage, where believers must learn to walk through. **V6** says believers are to walk the Christian life the same way that we originally received Christ "**by faith**". You started with Christ you must continue in Christ, this is the only way to make spiritual progress he says why? Because the Colossians were facing a dilemma in which they were being encouraged to accept some new truths coming from the gnostic false teachers.

- One of the impediments of spiritual growth is counterfeit teaching which appears on the outside to be true but upon further investigation is false and divisive. Paul says as you begin with Christ so continue to walk in Christ, these gnostic teachers attacked the Deity of Christ as all false teaching begins and ends with trying to minimize Who Jesus is.
- **V7** rooted in an agriculture word and it speaks of a tree, in the Greek it means “**once and for all having been rooted**” the imagery is that Christians aren’t to be tumbleweeds that have no roots and are blown about by every wind of doctrine as **Eph 4:14** states. Neither are they to be transplants that are repeatedly moved from soil to soil, for once we have been rooted by faith in Christ, there is no need to change the soil, for the roots give stability and strength.
- Built up is an architecture term, and its in the present tense meaning “**being built up**” which is why we’re established in the faith, taught, increasing in our thankfulness. All of this is occurring because of spiritual progress, for once we’ve been rooted and grounded then we start to add to the construction of our faith, this will protect us from the enemy’s attacks.
- **V8** here is why we must “**know why we believe and how to grow in it**” as Paul from his prison unable to physically help writes to the Colossians to beware of intellectualism, the philosophies and psychology that the world values. He calls it vain deceit, as it appeals to our pride, our vanity, but in the end its deceitful as it gives the impression that it will help you but in the end it only disappoints, and you know why? Because it is without Christ!
- Notice these things instead of having its roots in Christ have their roots in men, its system “**rudiments**” means system, from the world. Paul says these things are empty and don’t work, as they try and pull you away from Christ and not draw you to Christ.
- We live in a world that makes grand promises, encouraging us to believe that if we work together, that we can accomplish all of our goals and make this world a better place. That all sounds good until you realize they are talking about a world without Christ, that doesn’t follow His Word, and is not interested in doing His will, we came out of that world > **Eph 2:2**.
- We are headed toward a world where worldly values and vain deceit do not exist, it’s the place where **Col 3:1-4** tell us to set our minds to, looking forward to when Christ Who is our life will appear, The One Who died for our sins, and was raised from the dead, The One that we will spend eternity with worshipping and glorifying His Name Amen!