

## Grow Personally

### Seven Truths About Growing Personally

Our mission is to help people Know God, Find Freedom, **Grow Personally**, Discover Their Purpose and Make a Difference!



The tallest trees on Earth live in California. These towering coastal redwoods (*Sequoia sempervirens*), shown here in the Purisima Creek Redwoods Preserve, Santa Cruz Mountains, can live for hundreds of years.

Colossians 1:9–10 (NLT) <sup>9</sup> So we have not stopped praying for you since we first heard about you. We ask God to give you complete knowledge of his will and to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding. <sup>10</sup> Then the way you live will always honor and please the Lord, and your lives will produce every kind of good fruit. All the while, you will grow as you learn to know God better and better.

#### 1. Failure to Grow Can Happen

Hebrews 5:11–14 (NLT) *A Call to Spiritual Growth*

<sup>11</sup> There is much more we would like to say about this, but it is difficult to explain, especially since you are spiritually dull and don't seem to listen. <sup>12</sup> You have been believers so long now that you ought to be teaching others. Instead, you need someone to teach you again the basic things about God's word. You are like babies who need milk and cannot eat solid food. <sup>13</sup> For someone who lives on milk is still an infant and doesn't know how to do what is right. <sup>14</sup> Solid food is for those who are mature, who through training have the skill to recognize the difference between right and wrong.

Hebrews 6:1–3 (NLT) So let us stop going over the basic teachings about Christ again and again. Let us go on instead and become mature in our understanding. Surely we don't need to start again with the fundamental importance of repenting from evil deeds and placing our faith in God. <sup>2</sup> You don't need further instruction about baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment.

<sup>3</sup> And so, God willing, we will move forward to further understanding.

## 2. Personal Growth is God's Plan For You! Colossians 1:9–10 (NLT) (above)

2 Corinthians 3:16–18 (NLT) <sup>16</sup> But whenever someone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. <sup>17</sup> For the Lord is the Spirit, and wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. <sup>18</sup> So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image.

### 2 Peter 3:17–18 (NLT) *Peter's Final Words*

<sup>17</sup> You already know these things, dear friends. So be on guard; then you will not be carried away by the errors of these wicked people and lose your own secure footing. <sup>18</sup> Rather, you must grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

All glory to him, both now and forever! Amen.

## 3. More and More Blessings Come to You When You Grow!

### Romans 12:1–2 (NLT) *A Living Sacrifice to God*

And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. <sup>2</sup> Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

### Ephesians 4:21–24 (NLT)

<sup>21</sup> Since you have heard about Jesus and have learned the truth that comes from him, <sup>22</sup> throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception. <sup>23</sup> Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. <sup>24</sup> Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy.

James 1:2–4 (NLT) *Faith and Endurance* <sup>2</sup> Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. <sup>3</sup> For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. <sup>4</sup> So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.

Matthew 5:48 (NLT) <sup>48</sup> But you are to be perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect.

Galatians 5:22–23 (NLT) <sup>22</sup> But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!

Progress is exciting!

#### 4. Three Areas of Growth:

- a. Spiritual Growth
- b. Character or Lifestyle Growth
- c. Ministry Growth

#### 5. How Do I Grow As God Wants?

- a. Surrender to the Lord
- b. Accept That Growth Is The Plan
- c. Relationship With God - Worship, Prayer, welcome Holy Spirit
- d. Study – Word, Specific Studies, Freedom
- e. Give Your Time To The Process
- f. Join Other Believers – church family, in personal relationship, and study
- g. Welcome the Holy Spirit

#### 6. How Do I Help Other Grow?

- a. Surrender to the Lord
- b. Accept That Their Growth is the Plan
- c. Accept that I am Part of Their Growth - Ministry, growth, connection and help to others is part of their growth process. Come alongside them.
- d. Be an Example
- e. Reach Out To People & Pray for Them -initiate opportunities – calls, prayers, texts, encouragement
- f. Develop and Serve In Your Ministry
- g. Welcome the Holy Spirit

#### 7. **Growing is Healthy!**

Growth is not an insult!

The Kingdom grows and we are designed to grow too!

#### Mark 4:26–32 (NIV) **The Parable of the Growing Seed**

<sup>26</sup> He also said, “This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. <sup>27</sup> Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. <sup>28</sup> All by itself the soil produces grain—first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. <sup>29</sup> As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come.”

#### **The Parable of the Mustard Seed**

4:30–32pp—Mt 13:31,32; Lk 13:18,19

<sup>30</sup> Again he said, “What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? <sup>31</sup> It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth. <sup>32</sup> Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade.”

Prayer Thoughts for the Week:

- Ask God and maybe a trusted Christian friend, “Am I open to growing in every way and area that God wants me to grow?”
- Ask God if you are really aware of the true blessings that come from the growth He has planned for you?
- Ask God if you are growing in all three areas of life? – (spiritually, lifestyle, and ministry)
- Encouragement: Plants and animals grow easily when all the ingredients come together. For plants, sun, soil, water, seed, carbon dioxide, and nutrients come together and growth is easy. Ask God to reveal any steps, and you take them in faith. Growth happens easily when we connect with the God’s provided ingredients.