



### **3 – GROWING**

***Pastor Mike Chapman***

Today, we continue our journey asking a simple question, “What would it look like if we went “all in – if we all were committed to the mission of Jesus ... if we were all in of one mind and one passion about being light and salt in the world.

Today, let’s explore this question, “What would it look like if we were all in about spiritual growth and maturity?

#### **BIRTH AND GROWTH**

The Christian life begins with **a birth**.

*1 Peter 1:3, Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! God has given us a new birth because of his great mercy. We have been born into a new life that has a confidence which is alive because Jesus Christ has come back to life. GW*

*1 Peter 1:23, You have been born anew, not from perishable but from imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God. NET*

After life comes **growth**.

*1 Peter 2:1-3, So get rid of all evil behavior. Be done with all deceit, hypocrisy, jealousy, and all unkind speech. Like newborn babies, you must crave pure spiritual milk so that*

*you will grow into a full experience of salvation. Cry out for this nourishment, now that you have had a taste of the Lord's goodness.* NLT

*2 Peter 3:18, Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.* NIV

## SPIRITUAL GROWTH IS NOT OPTIONAL

*2 Peter 1:3-11, God's divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life...He has given us his very great and precious promises so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires. For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith moral excellence...and knowledge...and self-control...and perseverance...and godliness...and kindness...and love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But whoever does not have them is nearsighted and blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their past sins. Therefore, make every effort to confirm your calling and election. For if you do these things, you will never stumble, and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*

Spiritual growth is that process of divine grace whereby...

...we are enabled to **become more like Jesus.**

...to **die to sin**

...to live more and more unto **righteousness.**

Such an end is worthy of our full **grace-empowered** efforts.

## THREE FUNDAMENTAL MEANS OF GRACE

Grace is not simply a concept. It is an **active force**.

Means of grace are **pathways** along which grace flows.

1. Hearing God's **voice** through the Word.

*2 Timothy 3:16-17, All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to help us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.*

Is there a command for me to obey ...and example for me to follow...a promise for me to claim...a sin for me to avoid?

2. Having God's **ear** in Prayer.

*1 Peter 3:12, The Lord watches over the righteous, and His ears are attuned to their prayers. TV*

Worship – Confess – Thank – Ask

3. Belonging to God's **Body – the church**.

*Hebrews 10:24-25, Let us think about each other and help each other to show love and do good deeds. You should not stay away from the church meetings, as some are doing, but you should meet together and encourage each other, especially as the day of return approaching.*