



**THE GROWING CHURCH**

*Ephesians 4:14-16*

**1. Growing beyond \_\_\_\_\_**

We must avoid the type of Christianity that is a mile wide and merely an inch deep. Jesus didn't come to "brand" Himself as an exciting option, He came to plunge men into a life of deep and unwavering faith.

*But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. ~ 1 Corinthians 3:1*

**2. Growing into \_\_\_\_\_**

It is the truth spoken in love that brings a believer to greater maturity. Even as the body responds to the head, so Christians must grow in response to the truth of Christ.

*Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you. Only let us hold true to what we have attained. ~ Philippians 3:15-16*

**3. Growing through \_\_\_\_\_**

Through Christ the church grows as the body works together. More than just religious duty, the believer looks upon the rest of the church with eyes open to seek out opportunities to share the love of Christ.

*And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works. ~ Hebrews 10:24*

**2 THESSALONIANS 1:3**

**WE OUGHT ALWAYS TO GIVE THANKS TO GOD FOR YOU, BROTHERS, AS IS RIGHT, BECAUSE YOUR FAITH IS GROWING ABUNDANTLY, AND THE LOVE OF EVERY ONE OF YOU FOR ONE ANOTHER IS INCREASING.**



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**Additional Scripture References**  
*(And Rabbit Trails Bible Study)*

**Proverbs 19:2**

*Desire without knowledge is not good, and whoever makes haste with his feet misses his way.*

**1 Corinthians 13:11**

*When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways.*

**Hebrews 5:12-13**

*For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food, for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child.*

**1 Peter 2:2**

*Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation*

**1 John 2:12-14**

*I am writing to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven for his name's sake. I am writing to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I write to you, children, because you know the Father. I write to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you and you have overcome the evil one.*

**John 13:34-35**

*"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."*

**Romans 12:2**

*Now concerning food offered to idols: we know that "all of us possess knowledge." This "knowledge" puffs up, but love builds up.*

**Hebrews 6:10**

*For God is not unjust so as to overlook your work and the love that you have shown for his name in serving the saints, as you still do.*