

Growing in God

1 Peter 2: Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, ²as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow ³thereby, ³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord *is* gracious.

1 Corinthians 3: And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual *people* but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ. ²I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able *to receive it*, and even now you are still not able; ³for you are still carnal. For where *there are* envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and ⁴behaving like *mere* men?

Ephesians 4: ¹¹And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, ¹²for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the ¹³edifying of the body of Christ, ¹³till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; ¹⁴that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, ¹⁵but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ— ¹⁶from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

1. We need to understand what the ministry gifts are for

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- Instruction or feeding and work or exercise in order to grow,

2. Growth looks like Jesus

Ephesians 4: ¹³till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

- Growth for the Christian resembles looking like Christ,

Romans 8: ²⁹For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

3. A Babe is easily deceived

Ephesians 4: ¹⁴that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,

4. How do I grow?

Ephesians 4: ¹⁵but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—

- Do we accept the truth about our self when we hear it?

John 8: ³²And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”