

The Potter's Christian Life Center

SERMON NOTES
with Pastor Greg Formey



Growth and Change

James 1:2-6

Sunday, September 15, 2019

You have, no doubt, heard that change is the only constant thing in life. This sounds ironic, but it is true. It is built into everything we experience. A.R. Bernard said "If you refuse to change, you will continually go through changes."

You will never mature in life unless you are willing to change. And for it to be lasting, there must be a process of growth. This is why, from the beginning, God placed the tree of the knowledge of good and evil before Adam and Eve. They needed a challenge to overcome. They were not placed in the Garden of Eden simply for comfort and enjoyment. It was their launching pad for continual growth and development, but God's way.

Genesis 1:28

And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

So, what is growth? It is observable, measurable change over a reasonable period of time, as a person submits to God and His Word.

In order to grow you must be given opportunities to do so.

THE METHOD OF GROWTH

James 1:2-6

²Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. ³For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow.

There will be many times of testing in your life. You must see it as an opportunity, not a burden. It is, believe it or not, a favorable time for joy, because growing people look forward to blessing and a closer walk with the Lord.

THE SOURCE OF GROWTH

⁵If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking. ⁶But when you ask him, be sure that your faith is in God alone.

When you pray, "Lord, teach me to number my days," you are saying "Help me to learn to pay attention to the quantity, quality, and circumstances of my life. I cannot wait until there is little time left."

THE GOAL OF GROWTH

⁴So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.

It is the mature person who can say with confidence, "**The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.**" The people who "shall not want" realize that they already have everything that is really necessary for this life. It is immature, worldly thinking that causes them to feel needy.

The stress, tension, anxiety, struggle, and suffering are all to be appreciated. They are part of the gift of growth and change.

The degree to which you resist this truth will be the degree to which you will stunt your growth.

How you respond during times of challenge will determine how successful in life you will be.