

# ONE WORD

## “GROW”

We are digging into a 7 Part series on words!

**Proverbs 18:21 “The Tongue has the power of life and death!”**

Words have the power to build us up or tear us down  
We can say words don't hurt us, but they really can

**Proverbs 12:18 says that “Reckless words pierce like a sword”**

We have all felt the wounds that can come from words.

**James 3:3-5 When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. <sup>4</sup>Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. <sup>5</sup>Likewise the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark.**

THE WORDS THAT COME FROM OUR LIPS MATTER!!!

**Luke 6:45 A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.**

7 words that connect to our hearts! (REVEAL HEARTS)

PLEASE: A humble heart

THANKS: A Grateful heart

YES: A Surrendered heart

NO: A Protected heart

SORRY: A Contrite Heart

GO: A Willing Heart

GROW: A Hungry Heart

**Today: The Word is GROW**

Summer is just around the corner...Exciting time of the year  
Kids almost done with school  
Warm weather...lake days...garden days.  
Planning Summer Vacations.

**I realized that sometimes I care way too much about the destination than I do the journey or the process.**

Just get there  
No time to stop and eat and use the bathroom!

But if I think of this same tendency I have on vacation.....

**Do I think of my relationship with God the same way?**

Do I enjoy the journey or process I am in with God?  
Or am I just concerned with the destination,  
heaven, or having Salvation?

**2 Corinthians 3:17-18 (NIV)**

**17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.**

**18 And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate/ Reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.**

It is not just about the destination.....its about the Journey....**Growth!!**

It is not just about salvation  
It's a journey  
It's a process

**EACH OF US IS GROWING!!!**

Transformation and Ever Increasing = GROWTH and CHANGE

Salvation is about Growth & Change

Living for God is about Growth & Change

Living a Christian life is about Growth & Change

Sometimes we think it is about Perfection

It's not about being that future better version of yourself

It's about Loving God - Change follows!

WE CAN NOT BE PERFECT

Without God's grace, journey, and walking in His mercy....can't we even be good!!

When we shift and think about it as an Arrival instead of Growing

-We become Judgmental

-First with ourselves - beating ourselves up over our mistakes

-Then we shift to being judgmental towards others

-From there, the words can flow that can cause damage.

**BUT WHAT IF WE FOCUS ON OUR ONE WORD.....GROW.**

**Our Walk with God is about Growth**

Often we miss this

-We get concerned about the destination instead of daily growth

***Example: We end up with Spiritual Streakers:*** Helmet of salvation and that's it!!!

God wants us to put on the FULL armor of GOD

-After Salvation we must continue to change and become more like Christ

WE MUST GROW

When we don't change, when we don't Grow

-We get BORED

-We LOSE FOCUS

**Example: Valley Fair**.....walk in go on the merry go round.....that's it

There is so much more that God wants to do

-Pursue Him, dig in

-Don't settle!!

Get the Map, the Bible, and go to the back of the park!

## WE MUST GROW

**Mark 16:1-8 NIV "You Can't find me where I was"**

**16** When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body. **2** Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb

**3** and they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?" **4** But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. **5** As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed.

**6** "Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. **7** But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.'"

**8** Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.

Terrified because of the change

-They went expecting a dead Jesus, to find him where he had been laid

Went expecting a man, **but they found God**

I love this because with Jesus this is what you get - Growth & Change

**"You Can't find me where I was."**

This is what Jesus does in our lives.

I once was blind but now.....I see                      You can't find me where I was

I once was lost but now.....I'm found

I once was a thief but now..... I'm a giver

I once was a glutton but now.... I'm a man of self control

I once was a liar but now.....I proclaim truth

I once was a gossip but not.....I am an encourager

I once lusted but now.....I love                      You can't find me where I was!

Walking With Jesus is about Change....It's about growing

When God moves in us, He makes waves!!

***Example: Walk out on a dock....ripples when you toss a stone.***

People may think that's who you are, but BAM your changed

They Go back and try to find you there, but you're not there

-You have changed & experienced growth in your life!!

Often Growth in our life stops or gets stunted or Change comes to a halt.

### **What Keeps us from Growing??**

#### **1. We hold onto a Feeling or Emotion:**

Goosebumps, tears, crying, feeling when you knew you needed God

It's easy to think, "I'm not close to God because I don't feel HIM."

**Jeremiah 17:9 NIV The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?**

Don't trade God for a feeling

Who God is, is SO much bigger than what God does.

-Sometimes we go through times when God removes the feelings because that brings maturity.

-It can feel like your in a desert

-Remember, He will never leave you or forsake you is a promise!!

Sometimes we try to recreate an Experience we had with God.

We need to seek God for something fresh

-THIS IS PART OF GROWING!!

God gave the Israelites Fresh Manna everyday.....dependance on Him

-Bible says His mercies are new everyday

-Don't settle for yesterday's mercy. Grow today!!

#### **Yesterday's Fires are Today's Ashes**

Every experience with God should drive us closer to him

-Not create a spot to get stuck.

What Else keeps us from Growing?

## **2. We get Lazy and Bored**

Spiritual Blaas!

- Don't feel like it, don't want to
- Im fine...
- We can become content with a little
- It's easy, safe, & not challenging

Get Bored with Him... Why?

Because we settle

- Settle for a Sparkler when God's an m80!!
- Settle for a Pinto and God's a Brand new Silverado!!
- Settle for pair of Shoes when God's the whole shoe store!!

It's like snorkeling in the BathTub

- God is so much bigger than the fraction you have experienced
- Strive to Grow, to know Him more
- There is SO MUCH MORE!!!

## **3. We become Dependent**

"I'll grow if someone feeds me"

**Hebrew 5:11-14 NLT(author is teaching deep spiritual truths and then stops)**

**11 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. 12 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.[a] You are like babies who need milk and cannot eat solid food. 13 For someone who lives on milk is still an infant and doesn't know how to do what is right. 14 Solid food is for those who are mature, who through training have the skill to recognize the difference between right and wrong.**

There's a normal process of development/ growth

Normal for babies to need to get fed

- We need to be patient with new "baby" Christians

But as Kids get older and mature they grow out of that stage.

**Example:**

Baby Gio with food all over face is cute

Elisia (Mom) with food all over her face? Knock it off, that's disgusting

Baby Gio in a diaper is cute

Nat (Dad) running around in Depends...that's nasty

People often expect their church to feed them.

We're here to help!!

-Each of us must take responsibility for our own relationship with God

-Don't Leave a church because your not getting fed

-Take of the bib so you can mature & feed yourselves

As you grow the church becomes more about

-What you can give

-Not what you can get

How do we Grow?

**Grow Roots/ Digging Deeper**

**Psalm 92:12-13 The righteous will flourish like a palm tree, they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon;13 planted in the house of the Lord, they will flourish in the courts of our God.**

Palms are known for long life, healthy long life

Cedars of Lebanon- 120 ft tall and 30 feet wide

-The only way to keep growing is to have a strong base

Grow Roots                      How??

-Find Godly friends

-Join LifeGroups

-Read your Bible, take time for Prayer

-Spend time with God!!

God must stay a PASSIONATE PRIORITY in our lives!!!!!!

## **Psalm 63:8 KJV 8 My soul followeth hard after thee**

AW Tozer- *"Pursuit of God"*

The whole transaction of religious conversion has been made mechanical and spiritless. Faith may now be exercised without a jar to the moral life and without embarrassment to the Adamic Ego. Christ may be "received" without creating any special love for Him in the soul of the receiver. The man is "saved" but he is not hungry nor thirsty after God. In fact he is specifically taught to be satisfied and encouraged to be content with little."

### **Be ENCOURAGED!!**

Keep Growing                      Enjoy the process  
    It's not just about being saved  
        -It's about becoming more and more like Him  
            -Allowing him to change us little by little

Don't get satisfied with what you have  
    -There is so much more to God!!

Pursue Him and be diligent to Grow in your faith.

**2 Peter 3:18 17 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. 18 Rather, you must grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.**

My prayer is that a Spark will be lit!!  
    -A hunger will develop in each of us for more of God  
    -That Growth and Change will continue in each of our lives as we Follow God

**And GROW!!!**