

## Lesson 10: Christian Growth (Part 1)

### INTRODUCTION

To accept Jesus Christ as Lord and personal Savior is the most important decision a person will ever make. This newly-established relationship starts in us a whole new life and requires certain things for growth and development.

God's design is for believers to mature (Hebrews 6:1) and to deepen their walk in the Lord. Growth is an integral part of our Christian life. It deals with our conformity to the character of God as revealed in Christ (Philippians 3:10).

Growth takes time. It is an ongoing process. It involves a daily choice to learn God's Word, allowing Him to renew your mind, and be obedient to what you have learned from the Scriptures.

As growing believers, we are called to forsake the things that hinder us from God and run the course laid out for us (Hebrews 12:1).

## OUTLINE

### A. BASIC EVIDENCES OF GROWTH

Growth is the most logical evidence of life. There are three main evidences of Christian growth:

#### 1. Craving for God's Word (Hebrews 5:12-14)

The Bible explains that a growing Christian usually has an insatiable desire for God's Word. An infant desires for milk at the early stage yet cannot stay on milk. At some point, the infant will need some solid food in order to develop and mature. The same is true in our relationship with God. The process of growth involves being taught and even corrected by God as we study His Word (Hebrews 12:5-11). What a blessed thing to grow by learning and by being mentored by those who are well instructed in the Word of God!

#### 2. Confidence in God's Ways (Hebrews 4:14-16)

Confidence is defined as knowing who God really is, His will and plan for our lives. It originates from our understanding that God will be with us and help us (Hebrews 13:5-6) and that He will fulfill what He promised. It involves our knowledge of God and His powerful ways of working in us. God gives us confidence to trust Him to get us through the circumstances and challenges of life.

#### 3. Conformity to God's Will (1 John 5:3)

Obedience is another evidence of Christian growth. We obey God, not out of restraint, but out of a willing heart. He loves us and in return we must love Him (1 John 4:10,19). This love shows itself in obedience. Christ is our example of love when He died for our sin in willful obedience.

**B. GROWTH DYNAMICS****1. Bible Study (James 1:22-25)**

Food is a necessity of life. Without it, one becomes weakened and eventually gets sick. Lack of spiritual food produces the same results in our spiritual lives. The Word of God is what God provides for our spiritual nourishment, strength and growth (Matthew 4:4).

An approved workman of God both study and rightly divide the word of truth (2 Timothy 2:15).

**2. Prayer (Matthew 26:40-41)**

Prayerlessness is tantamount to lack of growth in Christlikeness. Prayer does not only changes things, it changes us. Therefore, when it is hardest to pray, one should pray the hardest.

**3. Christian Fellowship (1 Corinthians 12:12)**

Just as several logs burn brightly together and fire goes out of one placed alone on the cold hearth, so do Christians need to work together or the fire of enthusiasm will go out. Fellowship keeps our heart warm for the Lord. Fellowship is spending time and doing things with others who love Christ. It is a vital element for our Christian growth and maturity.

**4. Witnessing (Acts 26:12-29)**

A witness is a person who tells what he has personally seen and heard. He shares his own personal experience. Anyone who has experienced the saving knowledge of Christ can be a witness for Him.

Witnessing is the overflow of the Christian life. A true witness cannot help but share Christ with those whom He comes and contacts with.

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