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WOW – Word on Wednesday
CORE CONCEPTS SERIES
“GROW IN GRACE”
Discipleship & Spiritual Maturity
1 John 2:12-14

Spiritual growth is the process of becoming more and more like Jesus Christ. When we place our faith in Jesus, the Holy Spirit begins the process of making us more like Him – conforming us to His image. Spiritual growth is perhaps best described in 1 Peter 1:3-8, which tells us that by God’s power we have everything we need to live lives of godliness, which is the goal of spiritual growth. Notice that what we need comes “through the knowledge of Him”, which is the key to obtaining everything we need. Our knowledge of Him comes from the Word!

Are you a growing Christian? Do you love and know the Lord Jesus better today than you did last year or last week? (*Colossians 1:9-10*)

I. The Mark of Maturity

2 Peter 3:18

- a. To be a growing Christian refers to maturity. (You can be young only once, but you can be immature for a lifetime!)
- b. It is possible to be spiritually healthy but not mature. (A young child can be healthier than a 50-year-old man, but he is not mature.)
- c. Maturity is a life-long process, and we actually go through three stages of growth: Childhood, Young Adulthood, Adulthood.
- d. When John was saved, he was mean and nasty; and stayed that way until he grew. He had a violent disposition. His nickname was the Son of Thunder.
 1. He was selfish.
 2. He was prejudiced.
 3. He was intolerant.
- e. John grew up! And he wrote the Gospel of John – he was the disciple who trusted Jesus.
 1. John never mentioned his own name.
 2. No longer is John seeking the chief place.
 3. He was no longer prejudiced.

Mark 3:17

Mark 10:37

Luke 9:54

Luke 9:49

John 13:23

Matthew 6:33

- Notice the first time John prayed, he asked for fire to come down upon the people.
- The second time he prayed, he asked God to bless the people and to fill them with the Holy Spirit.

II. The Means of Maturity

- a. There must be the miracle of life – we cannot begin to grow unless we have life.

- b. We must be saved and become a Christian.
- c. There must be the passing of time (there is no instant maturity). Psalm 1:2
- d. The secret of maturity is spending time; we're not going to mature overnight. 1 Corinthians 2:13
- e. There is no way we can grow without being nourished – and our nourishment is the Word of God!
- f. We can't read the Bible like a recipe book and never eat the meal! 1 Corinthians 10:3
- g. We need to feed upon the Word, not merely read the Word.
- h. Obey what you do understand, and you'll soon be understanding what you didn't understand. Proverbs 4:7