

Growing

Sunday, October 4, 2020

I want to begin a new focus with a series of messages entitled GROWING.

Let's start by looking at the scriptural **EXPECTATION** for growth

2 Peter 1:5-11

5 For this very reason, **make every effort to add to your faith** goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; **6** and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; **7** and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. **8** For if you **possess these qualities in increasing measure**, they will keep you from being **ineffective and unproductive** in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. **9** But whoever does not have them is **nearsighted and blind, forgetting** that they have been cleansed from their past sins.

10 Therefore, my brothers and sisters, **make every effort** to confirm your calling and election. For if you **do these things**, you will never stumble, **11** and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 4:11-13

11 So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, **12 to equip** his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be **built up 13** until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and **become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.**

Hebrews 5:12-6:1

12 In fact, though **by this time you ought to be teachers**, you need someone **to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk**, not solid food! **13** Anyone who lives on **milk**, being **still an infant**, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. **14** But **solid food** is for **the mature**, who by **constant use** have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

6 Therefore let us **move beyond** the elementary teachings about Christ and be taken forward to **maturity**, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God,

There is an Expectation of Growth

- Add to your faith
- Possess these qualities
- Increasing measure
- Become mature
- By this time you ought to be teachers
- Still an infant
- Milk vs solid food
- Move beyond
- Become mature/forward to maturity
- Whole measure of the fulness of Christ

For many there is a **PRESUMPTION** that Spiritual Growth will happen automatically

There is a Presumption of Growth

- Ineffective and unproductive
- nearsighted and blind
- forgetting
- By this time
- Living on milk
- Still an infant

But these scriptures teach us that there is also a **PRESCRIPTION** for growth

There is a Prescription for Growth

- Make every effort
- Add to your faith
- Possess these qualities
- Do these things
- Equip
- Built up
- Attaining
- Continued teaching of the basics as well as the meatier (solid food) subjects of God's Word
- Constant use

Lord willing, each week, I want to exam several related areas of our spiritual life and ask ourselves how we could grow in each area. Today I want to look at the areas of Trust, Contentment and Thankfulness.

1. Growing in my TRUST of God

Proverbs 3:5-6

5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; **6** in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

Psalm 23:1-2

1 The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. **2** He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters,

VIDEO: Walking With God In The Desert (Part 6 - 8:35-17:50)

Scripture after scripture admonishes us to trust in God. But are we growing in this area of our lives? Are we learning to trust God more and more? Do we find ourselves being quick to trust God for what we need or does it still take days and weeks of struggle before we let go and trust God in spite of what we see with our eyes?

What is one area of my life that I could TRUST God more?

2. Growing in CONTENTMENT

Philippians 4:11-13

11 I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. **12** I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. **13** I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

1 Timothy 6:6-10

6 But godliness with contentment is great gain. **7** For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. **8** But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. **9** Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. **10** For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

Contentment is not learning to be happy with poverty. Paul said he had to learn to be content with plenty or with want. People can be poor and not live in contentment. People can have all the money in the world and not live in contentment.

Contentment means being focused on what we do have and not on what we do not have. Contentment sees what God has given us not what we think He should give us. Contentment uses the energy we have to utilize what is before us rather than ignoring what is before us and wasting our energy to gain what we do not currently have.

Contentment means being happy with what I have

“Now and then it’s good to pause in our pursuit of happiness and just be happy.” - Anonymous

I have a difficult time being CONTENT when it comes to...?

3. Growing in THANKFULNESS

Psalm 106:1

Praise the Lord! Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; For His lovingkindness is everlasting.

Thankfulness helps us grow in both trust and contentment

1 Thessalonians 5:18

18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 5:20

20 always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Some big things I am **THANKFUL** for...

Some small things I am **THANKFUL** for...

Some difficult things I am **THANKFUL** for...