



Created For This - Week #4
Created to Grow
(Although at Times, Painful and Uncomfortable)

- **We were created to grow and most often it is painful and uncomfortable.**
- **We who are in Christ have been called to grow into the image of Christ.**

Luke 8:4-10 (NIV)

While a large crowd was gathering and people were coming to Jesus from town after town, he told this parable: ⁵“A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path; it was trampled on, and the birds ate it up. ⁶Some fell on rocky ground, and when it came up, the plants withered because they had no moisture. ⁷Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up with it and choked the plants. ⁸Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up and yielded a crop, a hundred times more than was sown.” When he said this, he called out, “Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear.” ⁹His disciples asked him what this parable meant. ¹⁰He said, “The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of God has been given to you, but to others I speak in parables, so that, “though seeing, they may not see; though hearing, they may not understand.”

- **If we are going to be a people that grow, we are going to have to be a people that asks questions.**

Luke 8:11-12 (NIV)

“This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the word of God. ¹² Those along the path are the ones who hear, and then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved.

- **Growth can’t happen in hard soil.**

Luke 8:13 (NIV)

Those on the rocky ground are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away.

- **Growth best happens in community, not in isolation.**

Luke 8:14 (NIV)

The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life’s worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature.

- **Growth happens in many things, but we must be intentional if we are going to grow in the right and best thing.**

Luke 8:15 (NIV)

But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.

Perseverance- per·se·ver·ance

/ˌpɜrsəˈvɪərəns/

noun

1. persistence in doing something despite difficulty or delay in achieving success.

- **Growth is more like a crockpot than it is a microwave.**

James 1:1-4 (NIV)

James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes scattered among the nations: Greetings. ²Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. ⁴Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

- **One of the chief tools the King uses to grow is pain and suffering.**

Colossians 2:6-7 (NIV)

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, ⁷rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

- **We never come to the end of the road of growth, it is a lifetime process, but keep walking.**