

HOW TO GROW AS A CHRISTIAN

WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE AND WHAT IS THE GOAL

*"For I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift,
to the end ye may be established;"*

~ Romans 1:11

1. Are You Growing?

- a. Salvation is a seed, a beginning, a start, a new creation.
- b. Growth would be God's work in you (see Paul's words such as fruit, increase, edify)
- c. God gives growth/increase – 1 Cor 3:6-9 – Are you growing? How do you know?
- d. When you see it... it is encouraging, a joy, praiseworthy, thankworthy
- e. When you don't... it can be discouraging, depressing, doubtful, confusing, hard, hopeless
- f. The Thessalonians faith grew exceedingly (how did he know) - 2 Thess 1:3-5
- g. A Christian needs to know God's salvation, but also how to grow

2. The Goal of Growth

- a. Christ is essential for the Christian – Rom 3:24, 2 Cor 5:17, Col 1:27, 2:3,9-10
- b. The goal of growth is to grow up into Christ in all things - Eph 4:12-16
- c. The goal is not for the Christian to do all things, but to do "through Christ" – Phil 4:13
- d. What does that look like to grow up into Christ? What's the end goal?
 - i. Have his mind, prioritize his will, do his work, live in his glory
 - ii. Rom 1:11,16:25-27;1Co 1:8,30-31;Col 1:28,3:14;Eph 3:16-19;1Th 3:12-13, 5:23
 - iii. The goal is full, joy, preservation, glory, perfection in that future day of Christ
- e. There are some things you will not have in glory – 2 Cor 5:7, Rom 8:24, 1 Cor 13:13
- f. Our position and life is eternal – our goal here is to grow in faith, hope, charity – 1Th 1:3

3. God's Part, Your Part

- a. God will work in you for all things if you let him – Gal 5:22
- b. There is a pattern/curriculum/map for growth found in Paul's epistles
- c. There are stages ... 1) salvation, 2) stablishment, 3) sanctification, 4) service
- d. There are tools ... 1) Bible, 2) Prayer, 3) Praise/Rejoicing, 4) Fellowship
- e. There are measurements ...1) knowledge,2) strength, 3) charity, 4) faithfulness, 5) Christ
- f. You have the choice to refuse, ignore, neglect, and diminish God's work in you.
- g. Not doing anything will result in your failure to grow.
- h. To reach the goal, assess where you are at, pray for growth, and use his tools.
- i. Paul is glad that God will continue to work in you acc. to his will - Phil 1:3-6
- j. It's never too late to start. It's never too soon to do this one thing - Phil 3:13-14