Have You Stopped Growing?

Kevin Clark · 2 Peter 3:14–18 · Series: **By The Word?**

INTRODUCTION

- We, as God's people, are expected to continue to grow. Growth is not a one-time thing, we don't plateau.
- Because it's your responsibility to grow. It's my responsibility to grow. And we can do it.

1 You Must First Be Made Alive in Christ

Ephesians 2:1–10; Romans 5

- You must first be made alive in Christ before you can start to grow.
- But God, who is rich in mercy, because of his great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ.
- Well, sin is transgression of God's law.
- There's no real growth in Christ until he and he alone has made us alive.

2 Spiritual Growth Is a Commandment, Not an Option

2 Peter 3:14–18; 1 John 3:4

- Spiritual growth is a commandment, not an option.
- But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
- No, he's giving a command. It's in the imperative sense.
- We must grow in Christ. We must become more useful to God. We must grow in our capacity to serve God.

3 God Expects His Children to Grow

1 Timothy 4:12–16; Ephesians 4:11–16

- Meditate on these things. Give yourself entirely to them. Why? That your progress may be evident to all.
- What's he talking about there? Progress. That's growth.
- It's not just young people. All of us are expected to grow.
- So if we don't grow, whose fault is it? It certainly isn't God. God said, I gave you the things you need.

4 Spiritual Growth Will Prevent Us from Backsliding into Hell

Hebrews 5:9–6:9

- Spiritual growth will prevent us from backsliding into hell.
- For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God.
- Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection.
- The salvation you once had can be lost. And so we better make sure that we're growing.

5 How Do I Grow? By the Word and Exercised Senses

1 Peter 2:1–3; Hebrews 5:12–14; Romans 13:14

- As newborn babes, Desire the pure milk of the Word. Why? That you may grow thereby.
- Do we crave the word of God? Do we love the word of God?
- But not only that, by exercising our senses to discern good and evil.
- But put on the Lord Jesus Christ and make no provision for the flesh to fulfill its lust.

6 If You Want to Grow, Use the Right Standard

2 Corinthians 10:12; 1 Peter 2:21–24; Galatians 2:20

- If you want to grow, you better use the right standard.
- But they measuring themselves by themselves and comparing themselves among themselves are not wise.
- What's the right standard? It's Christ.
- You put Christ as a standard, you will grow and grow and grow, and you won't stop growing until either the Lord comes or you give your last breath.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **Have you stopped growing? If we have, I beg and I pray and I urge you. Repent of that and start growing in Christ.**

MY NOTES