The Need For Growth

Ken Chapman · Hebrews 5:11–14

INTRODUCTION

- It's easy in theory. It's difficult to say, I am flawed, I need to be better, and I can be better.
- It takes work to get to that better place.

1 The Absolute Basic Need for Growth

Hebrews 5:11–14

- For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God.
- But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.
- We need to be able to distinguish good from evil. And what is the only way to do that? To grow. To learn. To commit.
- We need to recognize first and foremost the absolute basic need for growth.

2 Honor Him as God and Give Thanks

Romans 1:18–21; Jonah 3; Acts 17

- For his invisible attributes, namely his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived ever since the creation of the world and the things that have been made, so they are without excuse.
- For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him.
- That God deserves to be honored and praised, number one in everything in our life. And thanked for his role in it.
- Our foundation has to be founded in God. And the fact that God deserves our all, not our sum, not better than last year, our all.

3 Why We Fail to Grow: We Get Distracted

Matthew 13

- Those who are choked out by the concerns and the cares of this world.
- Not because we hate God, not because we just want to sin, but because we get distracted.
- What we focus on changes our perspective. What we truly want most, we live for.
- Sometimes we let good things get in the way of the one thing that matters most. And that's honoring God and putting him first.

4 We Think We Know Enough

Romans 1:22–23; Romans 1:24–32

- But our actions betray our true mindset on this, don't they? We think we know enough.

- God expects us to care and to take every moment captive.
- If we live like that, we are acknowledging to God through our actions, regardless of what our words say, that we think we already know enough.
- If you don't grow, you're moving backwards. There is no standing still.

5 How Can We Grow? Be Thankful

Romans 1:21; Romans 1:29

- People committed to God recognize God is not a genie. He is the eternal creator and our Heavenly Father.
- Being thankful changes you. It changes your heart.
- Be thankful to God and be specific. Write what you're thankful for.
- Praise Him when He comes through. Trust Him when it doesn't happen the way you think it should.

6 Make Commitments and Stay Accountable

Hebrews 5:12; James 5:16

- Secondly, we need to make commitments and then be willing to keep them.
- You know what happens when you aim at nothing? You hit it every single time.
- Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.
- This is what Christianity is about. Helping each other and trusting God to be the power.

> THE CHALLENGE
>
> **The first journey of a thousand steps begins with the first. Be a new man.**

MY NOTES