

God Wants Christians to Grow!

(Hebrews 5:11-14)

In the verses above, the writer is upset because these Christians were not growing in Christ. He wanted to talk with them about the priesthood of Jesus but couldn't because they were too spiritually immature to handle it.

What about us? Since being baptized, how much have we grown? One thing the Bible emphasizes over and over again is that God wants Christians to grow! God wants His children to be spiritually mature. This is a serious matter to God!

I. Have we grown in our...

- A. Knowledge ? See Hebrews 5:11-14.
- B. Faith ? See 2 Peter 1:5.
- C. Worship ?
- D. Service ? The Hebrew Christians should have grown to become teachers (Hebrews 5:12).
- E. Behavior ? Or, are you like the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 3:1-3)?

II. How do we do it?

- A. We must desire to grow. See Colossians 1:10.
- B. We must be committed to growth. See 2 Peter 1:5. Growth will not come to the lazy and apathetic!
- C. We must constantly consume God's word.
 1. When it comes to spiritual growth, knowledge is key (Colossians 1:9-10; 1 Peter 2:2; 2 Peter 1:5; 3:18).
 2. This is why daily Bible reading and coming to Bible classes is so important!
- D. We must discipline ourselves to walk in Christ.
 1. "Walking" is Paul's favorite metaphor to talk about living by the gospel (Colossians 1:10; 2:6; James 1:22; 2 Peter 1:5-7).
 2. We have to apply the things we study from God's word!
- E. We must develop a never-give-up mentality.
 1. The Apostle Peter is a great example of this.
 2. With all of Peter's failures, he pressed on and continued to grow.

III. The blessings of growth:

- A. We will bear fruit (John 15:8; Colossians 1:10)!
- B. We will make it very difficult for the devil to snatch us away from God!
- C. We will shine our lights in the brightest possible way (Matthew 5:16)!
- D. We will please God in every aspect of our lives (Colossians 1:10).

Conclusion: If we are going to follow Jesus, then we must grow. If we don't, we will die spiritually!