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A Christian Is to Grow

by David Robnett

Growth as a Christian is vital. It is sad when a person learns the plan of salvation, repents, and is baptized and that is about as far as it goes. In Ephesians 4:15, Paul teaches “but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him, who is the head, even Christ.” Clearly, our growth is to be “in love.”

Some things that help us to grow include:

- 1) Prayer: Consider Philippians 4:6 *“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.”*
- 2) Bible study: Peter tells us *“as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the Word, that you may grow thereby”* (1 Peter 2:2).
- 3) Increase our faith: Paul wrote in Romans 4:20 *“yet, with respect to the promise of God, he did not waiver in unbelief, but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God.”*

There are also things that can hinder our growth.

- 1) Ephesians 4:14 names three things that can keep us from growing: false doctrine, craftiness of men, and deceitful schemes.
- 2) Sin and harmful habits: Hebrews 12:1-2 *“Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us.”*
- 3) Malice: Paul said *“Brethren, do not be children in understanding; however, in malice be babes, but in understanding but mature”* (1 Corinthians 14:20). Malice is defined as badness of quality, wickedness or evil. In this we are to be babes.
- 4) Guile: Guile is deceit or deception. Exodus 20:16 tells us not to bear false witness like perjury or lying under oath.
- 5) Hypocrisy: Hypocrisy is often leveled against Christians but it can apply to all walks of life; pretending to be something you are not.
- 6) Works of the flesh: Galatians 5:19 shows everyone has sin, but we know it is something that we must remove from our lives. In Galatians 5:22-23, Paul lists the fruit of the Spirit, things with which we need to replace the works of the flesh.
- 7) Our friends and surroundings: Several scriptures show this principle. *“I will set nothing wicked before my eyes, I hate the work of those who fall away, it shall not cling to me”* (Psalm 101:3). *“Be not deceived: bad company corrupts good morals”* (1 Corinthians 15:33). *“From whom the whole body, being fitted together and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual, causes growth”* (Ephesians 4:16). *“But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior”* (2 Peter 3:1). *“And let endurance have its’ perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing”* (James 1:4).