

Spiritual How-to's
Growth
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Intro- In these sessions we share tips on how to please the Lord. You'll find brief, bible, basics on things that you can do that will genuinely please the Lord.

Today's topic – It pleases our heavenly Father when we are growing.

I. Object lesson.

**** What do these have in common?**

1. a seed, a plant
2. wedding ring, 30-year anniversary picture
3. pregnancy picture, full grown adult picture
4. Each represent growing stages, from beginning to maturity.

II. Let's look at each of these objects & their healthy growth stages

A. Plants – Begin with a seed and if healthy they proceed through these stages:

1. seed germination
2. vegetative growth
3. reproduction
4. *At each stage, it is impacted by the proper temperature, light, water & nutrients.*

B. Marriage – begins with a spark & if growing in their relationship will go through these growth stages: (according to marriage.com)

1. honeymoon 1-2 yrs.
2. reality – adjustment 3-5 yrs.
3. mini rebellion – trying to change the other 5-7 yrs.
4. smooth waters 10+ Yrs.
5. finding each other again; grown & flown kids 3-5 yrs.
6. attention – potential explosion, is this all there is? 1-2 yrs.
7. fulfillment – 40-50% couples never make it here
8. At each stage, attitude, encouragement, support, & love are needed for growth

C. Human growth & development begins with a seed & proceeds through these stages:

1. infancy
2. toddler
3. preschool
4. school age
5. adolescent

6. young adult
7. middle-age adult
8. old adult
9. nutrition, encouragement, discipline, and love are needed for growth

III. When we receive Jesus as our Savior, we become sons & daughters of God. Jn.1:12

- A. There are stages of spiritual growth, a healthy daughter or son of God will go through.
 1. baby – nepios -0-2 yrs.
 2. little child – paidon – 2-10 yrs.
 3. older child – teknon - 10-17 yrs.
 4. mature son – huioi – 18+ yrs., led by the Spirit
- B. Nothing pleases a parent more than seeing their child grow & mature. And by contrast, nothing grieves a parent more than a child who refuses to take responsibility or grow up.
 1. This is true of our relationship with our Heavenly Father.
 2. He is pleased with us AS WE GROW in relationship with Him.
 3. What stage of growth would you say that you are at in YOUR spiritual walk?
 - a. baby Christian
 - b. little child Christian
 - c. older child Christian
 - d. mature son – led by the Spirit
- C. The bible is clear about the need for us to grow spiritually.
 1. 2 Pet. 3:18 – Grow in grace & knowledge of our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ
 2. 1 Cor. 13:11 – When I was a child, I spoke as a child, when I became a man, I put away childish things
 3. Eph. 4:14 – so that we may no longer be children....
 4. 1 Pet. 2:2 – as newborn infants long for pure spiritual milk that they may grow in salvation ...
 5. 1 Cor. 3:2 – I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it...
 6. 1 Tim. 4:15 – that your progress may be seen by all
 7. John 15:5 – that you may bear fruit
 8. Heb. 6:1-2 – therefore, let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ & go on to maturity

IV. Just like the plant or a marriage or that baby is impacted by elements that affect their growth, so are we – in our spiritual walk.

A. For us, the things that will help us to grow spiritually are:

- a. daily bible reading (something from the bible each day)*
- b. thinking about the word & godly things (meditation)*
- c. a daily quiet time (to talk to God in prayer)*
- d. daily surrender – (more of Him, less of me each day)*

B. In future videos, we will address these, but for today, the question is are you growing spiritually? Are you progressing through stages of growth? Are you stuck? What do you need to do to grow?

C. Take a moment & do a self-assessment. Are you growing as a child of God?

D. As you do, He is pleased with you and as a proud Father, He says,
“This is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased.” Mat. 3:17