

# **The Growth of a Christian**

## *John Crawford*

### I. Introduction.

- A. This is heavy on God's heart - that we grow. (3 John 4)
- B. The greatest joy that the Apostle John had was to hear that his children were walking in truth.
- C. We are to grow in grace not by natural effort. (2 Peter 3:18)
- D. Everything works for the good that we be like Jesus Christ. (Romans 8:28)
- E. God gives for the growing up of the saints. (Ephesians 4)
- F. It is God's will that we would be holy and without blame before Him. (Ephesians 1:4)

### II. Jesus died for our sins, but there is more to our sins than Jesus on the cross. (1 Corinthians 15, Romans 5:10, Romans 1, Romans 8:9)

- A. Jesus rose from the dead.
- B. We have Christ in us as new believers. (Galatians 2:20)
- C. The death of Christ is the penalty of sin, and the life of Christ is the power over sin for believers. One day Jesus will return to save us from the presence of sin. (Philippians 3:20)

### III. How we grow in Christ.

- A. This is victory over the power of sin - the Holy Spirit having full sway in the life.
- B. Jesus died on the cross regardless of anyone's belief, so we go to the cross for the forgiveness of sins. (Romans 3:3)
- C. We go to Pentecost for the giving of the Holy Spirit - this is the one Baptism uniting believers into the Body of Christ. (Ephesians)
  - 1. The Holy Spirit stays in us until we are taken up. (2 Corinthians 2:11)
  - 2. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Jesus by whom we grow. He works out perfection in our life through the power over sin. (John 14)

### II. We must feed the inner Spirit.

- A. Through the Word of God. (Psalm 119:130, 119:105)
  - 1. We must increase our intake of the Word.

2. The quality of life is determined by our intake. The quantity of Scripture affects the life. (Jeremiah 6:19)
3. When you start quoting a lot of Scripture it takes a lot of review.
4. The memorized Scripture sinks to the soul. (Deuteronomy 11:18-19, 1 Peter 2:11, 1 Thessalonians 2:8)
5. Quantity is one of the best meditations.
6. Verses stick longer than chapters or books memorized.
7. Make memory work simple enough so that you can carry people with you.

**Application questions**

1. Why is the Holy Spirit central in the growth of the Christian?

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2. How does the Holy Spirit's role relate to that of the Scriptures in the believer's life?

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3. Memorize Psalm 119:105 and write it below. Why might this verse be a good verse to begin Scripture memory with?

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