

WHAT WE NEED
TO
KNOW AND GROW

2 PETER 3:18

2 Peter 3:18

But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

Introduction

A. A warning

2 Peter 3:17

Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness.

Introduction

B. God's plan for growth is birth, growth, and maturity

1. Many believers never mature as intended

2. Too many spiritual babies

3. Indications of spiritual infancy

a. Griping instead of gratefulness

b. Argument instead of action

c. Following men instead of the Master

1 Corinthians 3:1-5

1 And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ.

Introduction

B. God's plan for growth is birth, growth, and maturity

1 Corinthians 3:1-5 - continued

3 For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?

4 For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I am of Apollos; are ye not carnal?

5 Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man?

**How Can One Get On The
Grow?**

I. We Must Know How To Feed Ourselves

1 Peter 2:2

**As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word,
that ye may grow thereby:**

I. We Must Know How To Feed Ourselves

A. Proper food for proper growth at the proper time

1. Wrong types

a. Worldly

Matthew 13:22

He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful.

b. Worthless

1 Timothy 1:4

Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than godly edifying which is in faith: so do.

I. We Must Know How To Feed Ourselves

A. Proper food for proper growth at the proper time

2. Wrong stage

1 Corinthians 3:2

I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able.

Hebrews 5:12

For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.

I. We Must Know How To Feed Ourselves

B. Each believer must develop a strong devotional life

1. Starting the day with God and His Word

Isaiah 50:4

**The Lord GOD hath given me the tongue of the learned,
that I should know how to speak a word in season to him
that is weary: he wakeneth morning by morning, he
wakeneth mine ear to hear as the learned.**

2 Timothy 2:15

**Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman
that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word
of truth.**

I. We Must Know How To Feed Ourselves

**B. Each believer must develop a strong devotional life –
continued**

2. Taking time for thanksgiving and prayer

Psalm 119:164

**Seven times a day do I praise thee because of thy
righteous judgments.**

Philippians 4:6

**Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and
supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made
known unto God.**

I. We Must Know How To Feed Ourselves

**B. Each believer must develop a strong devotional life –
continued**

3. Finding faith-building words for the day

Psalm 119:9-11

**9 Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by
taking heed thereto according to thy word.**

**10 With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not
wander from thy commandments.**

**11 Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not
sin against thee.**

II. We Must Know How To Allow Others To Feed Us

Hebrews 10:25

Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

II. We Must Know How To Allow Others To Feed Us

A. The importance of the church in maturing Ephesians 4:11-16

11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

II. We Must Know How To Allow Others To Feed Us

A. The importance of the church in maturing Ephesians 4:11-16 -continued

14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

II. We Must Know How To Allow Others To Feed Us

A. The importance of the church in maturing Ephesians 4:11-16 - continued

16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

B. Expecting God to speak to us through others

C. Seeing Christ in the lives of other believers

III. We Must Know How To Walk

Galatians 5:16

This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

A. Walk in the Spirit

1. Grieve not the Spirit

Ephesians 4:30

And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

2. Quench not the Spirit

1 Thessalonians 5:19

Quench not the Spirit.

III. We Must Know How To Walk

B. Walk in newness of life

Romans 6:4

Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

C. Walk by faith

2 Corinthians 5:7

For we walk by faith, not by sight:

III. We Must Know How To Walk

D. Walk worthy of the Lord

Colossians 1:10

That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God.

E. Walk circumspectly

Ephesians 5:15

See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise,

III. We Must Know How To Walk

F. Walk in love

Ephesians 5:2

And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.

G. Walk in light

Ephesians 5:8

For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:

IV. We Must Know How To Reproduce

John 15:8

Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

A. Fruit-bearing is reproduction

B. Andrew led his brother Peter to Jesus

John 1:41

He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messias, which is, being interpreted, the Christ.

IV. We Must Know How To Reproduce

C. Three thousand converts at Pentecost

Acts 2:41

Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

D. Early believers kept multiplying

Acts 6:7

And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.

Believers who reproduce thrive and grow

How Do We Measure Up?

Let's Get Back To These Basics Of Growth