



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC The Call to Grow

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THEME Vision Series

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MESSAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

The goal of a Christian's growth is to become more Christlike. As Christians, we are to learn how to yield obediently to the Living Word and the Holy Spirit's prompting. In this sermon, we start the process of learning by studying 2 Peter 1:5-11, and how it teaches us to grow. And we do so using the inductive bible study method (Observation, Interpretation and Application).

THE CALL TO GROW

Inductive Bible Step 1: Observation - What do we Observe in the passage?

How do we grow to be useful and fruitful for God?

In addition to faith, we observe seven other qualities which, when practised diligently with increasing consistency, would enable Christians to be useful, fruitful and never stumble. We are to deliberately apply careful, hard work to grow our spiritual life with the empowerment of the Holy Spirit. The word "diligence" observed in the passage signifies a need for regular evaluation, feedback (from others), modelling, coaching and cultivation (acting on) of our spiritual life.

How can we grow in the qualities mentioned?

Our faith in Jesus Christ makes us members of the family of God and is the foundation for growth of all other qualities in the Christian life. The qualities observed build on one another to demonstrate the full concept of love, and can also be categorised under the four domains of our relationships in life. Our goal for growth in the four domains below is to be more and more Christlike.

Qualities	Steps to growth
Domain 1: Relationship with God	
Faith (<i>Foundation for spiritual growth</i>)	Hearing the Word of God.
Moral Excellence (<i>Virtues of God</i>)	Adding attributes of God in our quest for a growing relationship with Him.
Knowledge (<i>Our experiential knowledge of God</i>)	Knowing the Word of God experientially.
Domain 2: Relationship with Self	
Self-control (Limit effects of our weakness)	Dying to our carnal flesh.
Perseverance (Abiding in God to press on)	Denying of self and abiding in God.
Godliness (Awareness of God in every situation)	Modelling after Godly mentors.
Domain 3: Relationship with Believers	
Brotherly kindness (Concern for needs of believers)	Engaging in acts of service. Journeying with other believers.
Domain 4: Relationship with the World	

Love (Desire the highest good for others, John 3:16)	Loving people who are unlikeable.
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We are reminded to persevere in pressing situations with difficult people. This grows our spiritual muscles whenever we choose to die to our human inclinations and imitate Christ instead.

Inductive Bible Step 2: Interpretation - What is the Unchanging Spiritual Principle in the passage?

The Spiritual Principle is how to grow in Christ (1 Peter 1:10). There are three factors for growth.

Factor 1: Our growth must be intentional, not incidental.

Our spiritual growth comes about when the qualities mentioned are internalised (in depth) and applied (in breadth) into all areas of our lives. We are to purposefully live out these qualities by stepping out of our comfort zone to incorporate them in our decisions and behaviour. We are to start wherever we are and to monitor our spiritual growth over time (1 John 2:12-13).

Factor 2: Our growth must be from the inside out.

The result of our spiritual growth comes from the overflow of our personal walk with God.

We are reminded that cultivation of the inner life (faith, moral excellence, knowledge) is important to ensure that we do not succumb to our carnal and fleshly nature and end up making worldly decisions in our service to God.

Our growth must be holistic, encompassing relationships with God, self, other believers and the world. As Christians, we are strongly encouraged to grow and not stagnate at the elementary principles of faith (Heb 5:12-14). Growth is not dependent on age, but on maturity in applying God's truth in our relationships.

Factor 3: Our growth must be towards love and Christ-likeness

This principle is derived from the final quality mentioned in the passage; love. We are to grow to demonstrate godliness, which means Christlikeness. As God is love (1 John 4:7), we are exhorted to demonstrate God's love (Agape love) to the world. God's Agape love for the world is an act of our will to do the best for the person and is not dependent on our feelings.

Inductive Bible Step 3: Application - What can we do to apply God's word in our lives?

Firstly, as growth must be intentional, we are encouraged to intentionally set aside four hours each week to grow ourselves by reading the Word, spending time in prayer, and building our personal Altar of Thanksgiving, Praise and Worship.

Secondly, as growth must start from the inside out, we can take time to be still and allow God to deal with the issues in our heart as we seek spiritual breakthrough.

Lastly, as growth must be towards love and Christlikeness, we can engage in intentional acts of kindness, especially towards people who are unlikeable, hurting or difficult. This is so that we may grow in love and learn to be more like Christ.

CONCLUSION

As Christians, we are designed to reflect Jesus. God saved us from our sins so that we can represent and reflect Him in this lost world. When we grow in our faith from the inside out through the active and diligent application of the qualities mentioned above into our relationships, we will grow to love like Jesus.

QUESTIONS

1. Of our faith in God and the seven qualities observed, which are most evident in your life and which are least evident?

2. Describe your spiritual growth with the Lord at this moment. Of the three factors of growth, which is the factor you would like to work on for this year?

3. Of the three applications suggested in the sermon, which have you applied so far? What progress have you made and what difficulties have you experienced?