

The Foundation of Growth in Christ

Lesson Two:

What Is Growth in Christ?

Why does spiritual growth need to happen in your life?

1. Because your spiritual growth is not optional as a follower of Jesus. To truly follow Jesus you must grow to be more like Him by grace through faith.
2. Because your spiritual growth is not automatic as a follower of Jesus. Your spiritual maturity requires spiritual sweat; you must commit to your growth in Christlikeness, and you must work at your growth by grace through faith.
3. Because your spiritual growth is foundational to who you are as a follower of Jesus.

There are several reasons why this happened to these precious souls:

- Preaching and teaching **sound doctrine** — holding to the authority and sufficiency of God's Word without compromise.
- Preaching and teaching **expositionally** — verse-by-verse through chapters and books of the Bible in their context and with courage, conviction, clarity, and compassion.
- Preaching and teaching **Jesus Christ** — the gospel of God's grace to sinners through the life, crucifixion, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- **Discipling believers** — teaching, admonishing, and encouraging every person to observe all that Jesus lived and taught.
- Applying the "**one-anothers**" — ministering and modeling the truth of Christ to each other so that we all attain to the fulness of maturity and conformity to Jesus.

The Fruit (or Proofs) of Genuine Salvation (2 Corinthians 13:5)

- Love for God
- Repentance from sin
- Humility
- Devotion to God's glory
- Continual prayer
- Selfless love
- Separation from the world
- Spiritual growth
- Obedient living
- Hunger for God's Word
- Transformation of life

Be careful. You cannot put your trust in experiences from your past, such as:

- Where you were baptized or how many times you've been baptized
- You said a prayer and asked to be saved many times
- You walked down the aisle of a church
- You talked/prayed with a pastor, etc.

And you cannot put your hope for being truly born again in:

- Your knowledge of religion or even knowing the facts of the Bible
- Your religious involvement
- Feeling bad when you sin; feeling sorry you did something wrong
- Trying to be or wanting to be a good person
- Good things you do or have done

They came to realize two biblical truths about the life each of them had been living:

- They were not growing in likeness to Jesus and in love for Him.
- You cannot have spiritual growth where there is no spiritual life.

Their false conversions were revealed in their lifestyles:

- Since they never truly trusted Jesus to forgive them for their sins, Jesus did not live in them... which meant that they could never truly grow to be more like Him.

Spiritual death and deception can only be overcome by the grace of God in regeneration.

- *“He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit.” (Titus 3:5)*
- Regeneration is God’s gift of eternal spiritual life bestowed on or granted to the soul of a spiritually dead sinner.

