Growth

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INTRODUCTION

- It's the growth where you're growing internally and spiritually.
- There are many parallels to growth, especially physical growth.

1 Growth Is Really a Process

- Children cry, children are immature, and we understand that. We don't expect them to be well adjusted at this age.
- We know that we have to grow, and we expect that as adults to have grown up beyond that.
- Growth is really a process, and that's what we really want to focus on this morning, the process of growth.

2 In Christianity There's Also a Process

Romans 10:17; Acts 2:38; Romans 6:4

- In Christianity, one doesn't start off as a Christian, there's also a process.
- We don't leave one step, we're adding on to. So think of it more as a process where we're growing, we're adding on to what we have and who we are.
- So then faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God.
- Baptism is the culmination of this process.

3 Babes in Christ Are in a Fragile State

Luke 8

- You have two more soils that did sprout. They did hit that point where they were a baby in Christ, but then things happened to them on the way.
- This person got so wrapped up in the cares of the world that things just got in the way, and they failed as a Christian.
- Babes in Christ also need special attention. They need care.

4 You're Not Intended to Remain a Babe in Christ

1 Peter 2:2; 1 Corinthians 3:1–3

- You're not intended to remain a babe in Christ.
- Like newborn babes long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation.
- Others seem to level off just outside the baptistry, like they stay dripping wet.
- You've chosen not to grow beyond that. You've chosen to remain an infant.

5 Growth Needs to Be Emphasized

James 1:2–4; Matthew 21:19; Matthew 25:27

- Baby steps are fine as long as there's still steps.
- He's trying to change you, He's trying to grow you. That's His goal for you.
- Let endurance have its perfect results so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.
- For if these qualities are in you and increase, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- Jesus expects things from us. He has expectations for us.

6 How Do We Get Mature?

Ephesians 4:11–15

- What converted you to Christ in the first place? Your study of the Bible.
- Attendance, make it a fact, not a question.
- Know that Satan is trying to stop you and everything you do for Christ.
- Speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into him, who is the head, even Christ.

THE CHALLENGE

Have a higher goal in mind. Don't go for a low grade in class, shoot for an A.

MY NOTES