

The Nature Of A Disciple

PART 2 - GROWING IN GOD

NATURE OF A DISCIPLE

- **Knowing God**
- Growing in God
- Surrendered to God
- Obeying God
- Staying right with God
- Holding tight to God
- Empowered by God
- Counting for God

Colossians 2:6 *Now that you've received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.*

- 2 Timothy 2:21
- Colossians 1:28-29
- Colossians 4:12

Ephesians 4:11-15 ...to equip God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and **become mature**, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Then we will no longer be infants, tossed to and fro by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things **grow up** into him who is the head, that is, Christ.

Hebrews 5:11-14 *We have much to say about this, but it is hard to explain because you are slow to learn. In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for **the mature**, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil. Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and **go on to maturity**...*

- James 1:4
- 2 Corinthians 13:9

WHY DO WE NEED TO GROW IN GOD?

1. It is God's intention for each of us
2. It protects us from deception and drift
3. It allows us to be effective in doing God's will (John 15:8)

THINGS THAT HAVE HELPED ME TO GROW IN GOD:

1. Time alone with God

Where I...

- Abide
- Repent
- Pray
- Worship
- Read God's Word (1 Peter 2:2)

THINGS THAT HAVE HELPED ME TO GROW IN GOD:

2. Resourcing myself

- *Jude 20 build yourself up in your most holy faith...*

THINGS THAT HAVE HELPED ME TO GROW IN GOD:

3. Prioritised local church

- Acts 2:42

THINGS THAT HAVE HELPED ME TO GROW IN GOD:

4. Faithful Plodding

- Hebrews 12:1
- Hebrews 10:36

THINGS THAT HAVE HELPED ME TO GROW IN GOD:

5. An openness to the Holy Spirit

- Zechariah 4:6
- John 3:6

THINGS GOD HAS ALLOWED WHICH HAVE CAUSED ME TO GROW

1. Trials/Tests/Temptations

- James 1:2-4
- Abraham Lincoln: *I have been driven many times to my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere else to go.*

THINGS GOD HAS ALLOWED WHICH HAVE CAUSED ME TO GROW

2. Suffering/Hardships

- 1 Peter 4:12-13
- Billy Graham: *Mountaintops are for views and inspiration, but fruit is grown in the valleys.*
- Madame Guyon: *It is the fire of suffering that brings forth the gold of godliness.*

THINGS GOD HAS ALLOWED WHICH HAVE CAUSED ME TO GROW

3. Seasons of Waiting

- Proverbs 13:12
- Isaiah 40:31
- *What God does in us while we wait is as important as what it is we are waiting for.*

GROWTH BLOCKERS

- Sin (including offence and unforgiveness)
- Complacency & Spiritual Apathy
- Comfort & Convenience
- Compromise
- Wrong Priorities
- Unteachable
- Not Guarding your Heart
- Wrong Influences
- Living by Feelings

2 Peter 1:5-8 *For this reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

1 Timothy 4:15-16 *Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress. Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.*