

# Guaranteed Growth

- I. Introduction – All Christians Should Be Growing!
  - a. (1 Pet 2:2) “As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the **word**, that ye may **grow** thereby:”
  - b. (2 Pet 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.”
  - c. (1 Thess 3:18) “And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men, even as we do toward you: To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints.”
  - d. (1 Thess 4:10) “And indeed ye do it toward all the brethren which are in all Macedonia: but we beseech you, brethren, that ye increase more and more;”
  - e. (Heb 5:11-14) “Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing. 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. For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.”
  - f. Many ‘fads’ that people use to grow – many fail
    - i. If we don’t grow – we die!
  - g. Guarantee way to Grow
- II. Principles of Guaranteed Growth
  - a. Simple
  - b. Nothing New
  - c. Involves Doing What – Already Know
  - d. Takes Time
  - e. Takes Work
  - f. Takes Patience
- III. Faithful in Study
  - a. Word is the Source of Growth
    - i. (Rom 10:17) “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”
    - ii. (Acts 20:32) “And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.”
  - b. Must have a Craving & Thirsting
    - i. (Matt 5:6) “Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.”
    - ii. (1 Peter 2:2) “As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the **word**, that ye may **grow thereby**:”
      - 1. Grow by the Word – Must desire it!

- iii. (Ps 119:16) “I will delight myself in thy statutes: I will not forget thy word.”
  - iv. (Vs 72) “The law of thy mouth is better unto me than thousands of gold and silver.”
  - v. (Vs. 127) “Therefore I love thy commandments above gold; yea, above fine gold.”
  - vi. (Vs. 162) “I rejoice at thy word, as one that findeth great spoil.”
- c. Regular & Consistent Study
- i. (Acts 13:27) “For they that dwell at Jerusalem, and their rulers, because they knew him not, nor yet the voices of the prophets which are read every sabbath day, they have fulfilled them in condemning him.”
    - 1. Jews read every Sabbath
  - ii. Jesus rebuked them for not reading!
    - 1. (Matt 19:4) “And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female,”
    - 2. (Matt 22:29-32) “Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God. For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven. But as touching the resurrection of the dead, have ye not read that which was spoken unto you by God, saying, I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.”
      - a. Ye Do Err – Implies that Scriptures is the standard for truth, without we’ll err!
      - b. Have you not read! – Can’t grow without consistent study.
  - iii. (Acts 17:11) “These were **more noble** than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.”
    - 1. Berea – More Noble than those in Thessalonica! Why?
      - a. Receive the word with all readiness of mind and searched the scriptures daily!
      - b. Do we Study daily?
  - iv. (1 Tim 4:13) “Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.”
    - 1. Paul’s Instructions to a young minister!
  - v. (Ps 1:1-3) “Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his **delight** is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he **meditate day and night**. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.”

1. Delight – We need to see joy in the Word of God
  2. Meditate Day and Night – Need to make time to read and study!
- d. Faithful Study of the Word of God will:
- i. (2 Tim 3:16-17) “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.”
    1. Grow in doctrine
    2. Good for reproof
    3. Good for correction
    4. Gives us instruction in righteousness
    5. Make us to be perfect (complete) not wanting anything
    6. Only way that we can be throughly furnished unto all good works
- e. Guaranteed Growth comes by Studying
- i. Not new
  - ii. Not quick
  - iii. Not amazing
  - iv. Not a fad
- IV. Fervent in Prayer
- a. Regular time of prayer
- i. (Ps 55:16-17) “As for me, I will call upon God; and the LORD shall save me. Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice.”
    1. Everyday we ought to set aside time to pray – keep it consistent
  - ii. (Dan 6:10) “Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.”
    1. Daniel prayed three times a day – even in the midst of royal decree!
  - iii. (1 Thess 5:17) “Pray without ceasing.”
    1. We need to have prayerful mind. Always have God on our mind.
- b. Make and Schedule time to pray
- i. (Mark 1:35) “And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed.”
  - ii. (Luke 6:12) “And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.”
    1. Jesus made time to be alone and pray
- c. Pray about a lot of things
- i. (1 Tim 2:1-3) “I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men;

For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;”

1. Supplication – averting of evil
2. Prayer – obtaining of Good
3. Intercession – For others
4. Thanksgiving – Gratitude for blessings

d. Prayer is powerful

i. (James 5:16) “Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”

1. Fervent – active
2. Righteous Man – one who has sins remitted
3. A Christians Prayers Work!

ii. (1 Pet 3:12) “For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.”

1. God does listen

e. Fervent in Prayer will cause us to Grow, Guaranteed!

- i. Not new
- ii. Not quick
- iii. Not Amazing
- iv. Not a fad

V. Focus in Worship

a. Worship takes work – not a passive experience

- i. Easy to let mind wonder
  1. Concentration takes work / effort

b. Worship is to be Spirit and in Truth

i. (John 4:23-24) “But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.”

1. You worship God in Spirit by being born again. Sins remitted – doesn’t matter if your Jew or Gentile
2. Worship in Truth by Doing what he has commanded

c. Must Focus on:

- i. What we are doing. (Song, Words, etc)
- ii. What is being said (prayer, sermon)
- iii. The One we worship (God almighty)
- iv. Meaning of the Lord’s supper (Body, Blood, Death, Burial, Resurrection)

d. Sincere & Focused Worship will cause us to Grow, Guaranteed! Not New, Not Quick, Not Amazing, Not a Fad

VI. Fruitful in Love

a. (Matt 22:36-40) “Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart,

and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

i. Love God

1. More than acknowledging God

2. Keep Commandments

a. (John 14:15) “If ye love me, keep my commandments.”

b. (1 John 5:3) “For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.”

3. Practice what we know

a. (James 1:21-23) “Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls. But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:”

ii. Love our brethren

1. Can't Love God and not Love your brethren

a. (1 John 4:20-21) “If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.”

b. Honest and Fruitful Love will cause us to Grow, Guaranteed! – Not New, Not Quick, Not Amazing, Not a Fad

VII. Have Spiritual Matters first

a. (Matt 6:33) “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”

i. Jesus teaching them to not be worried about what they eat or wear

1. Have priorities right – Kingdom – First!

b. (1 Pet 3:15) “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:”

i. Sanctify – Set apart God in our minds

c. God must be first!

i. Above Pleasure

ii. Above Family

iii. Above Jobs

iv. Above Education

v. Above Self