

Gospel Growth

INTRODUCTION

THE PROCESS OF GOSPEL GROWTH

In His creative wisdom, God has designed trees to grow by several means. Soil, sunlight, and water all work together over time to bring a seedling to maturity. In the same way, God has designed that His people will grow to maturity through specific means. Unlike a tree, however, we have the ability to choose whether or not we will cooperate with God's work. While He is the great Cultivator, He expects us to diligently do our part for spiritual growth.

What do we confuse with growth?

_____ in Christ God's _____ Time _____

What does God use to grow us?

God's _____ provides the nutrients for maturity. (1 Pet. 2:2, 2 Tim. 3:16-17)

God's _____ provides the context for maturity. (Eph 4:1-6, 2:14-22)

God's sovereignty provides the _____ for maturity. (Ja. 1:2-4)

What must we do to grow?

We grow by exercising _____ from start to finish.
(Phil. 2:12-13, Heb. 5:11-12, Phil. 3:12-14)

Dependent Diligence =

Start to finish =

The process of spiritual growth must not be ignored or neglected. In the busy lives we lead we must guard our time in the Word, purposefully develop spiritual relationships in the church, and view our trials as new opportunities for growth. With God's power, we must then work diligently to add spiritual qualities to our life.

PURSUING GOSPEL GROWTH

- All of us have times in our Christian lives when we are ineffective and unproductive. What might these moments look like and why do they happen?
- What is wrong with the following statement? – “*My spiritual growth is between me and God. I do not need the church.*”
- Hebrews 10:24-25 is often used to encourage Christians to attend church on a Sunday. While church attendance contributes to our growth as Christians, in what way do these verses mean more than simply church attendance?
- In 1 Peter 1:3-9, Peter uses the words grieve, trial and test to describe what God uses to grow His children. How do we usually view these words and why would God use such means?
- What are some factors that keep you from being diligent in your gospel growth?
- Is it possible to actually lose our spiritual maturity if we do not maintain the process of growth? Can you think of a Bible reference to support your answer?