

Amazing Grace

Week 9: Growing in Grace

August 22, 2010

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen. 2 Peter 3:18

You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. Ephesians 4:22-24

What has been your measuring stick for spiritual growth in your life?

Growth is not how many.
Growth is how much.

Grace Growth is not so much a measure of the changes around us as it is a measure of the transformation within us.

What Keeps Us From Growth? Eph. 4:17-19

Futility of our thinking (vs. 17)
Darkened understanding (vs. 18)
Separation from God (vs. 18)
Hardening of our hearts (vs. 18)
Indulging in impurity (vs. 19)

What is Necessary to Grow in Grace?

Planting – security, roots: GOD’S WORD

Ps. 1:1-3 – How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the path of sinners, nor sit in the seat of scoffers! But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night. And he will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither; and in whatever he does, he prospers.

Sun – light, warmth, energy: JESUS

John 8:12 – Jesus said, “I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won’t be stumbling through the darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life.”

Rain – moisture, refreshing: GOD’S BLESSING

Heb. 6:7 – When the ground soaks up the rain that falls on it and bears a good crop for the farmer, it has the blessing of God.

Soil – nutrients, food: GOD’S LOVE

Eph. 3:18 – May your roots go down deep into the soil of God’s marvellous love.

Wind – strengthening, resilience: TRIALS & TESTING

Rom. 5:3-5 – We also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.

Pruning – purging, increased productivity: GOD’S CLEANSING

John 15:3 – “Now, you have already been pruned by my words.”

Time – various seasons: MATURITY

Eph. 4:13 – until we come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God’s Son that we will be mature and full grown in the Lord, measuring up to the full stature of Christ.



What are Some Growth Principles?

We live life looking forward, we understand life looking backward.
Growth seasons are not all the same length.
Growth seasons have a beginning and an ending.
Growth seasons always come in sequence.
Growth seasons come to different areas of our lives simultaneously.

Why is Patience Necessary for Growth?

Winter is a season for planning. *“a time to be born...” Eccl. 3:2a*

- A time for dreams, details, determination

Spring is a season for planting. *“a time to plant...” Eccl. 3:2b*

- A time for ploughing, preparation, paying

Summer is a season for perseverance. *“a time to uproot...” Eccl. 3:2b*

- A time for effort, endurance, excellence

Fall is a season for producing. *“beautiful in its time...” Eccl. 3:11a*

A time for sampling, saving, sharing