What Does It Mean to Grow in Christ?

2 Tim. 2:15

Growing in Christ is a fundamental concept in the Christian faith. It is also one of the concepts that can greatly enhance the Christian's life if we understand how to apply it in our lives. It is a concept that too many do not really know how to apply it or what it takes to apply it. Much of this lies at the feet of pastors and church leaders who fail to explain how to grow in Christ.

What does it mean to grow in Christ? What are we talking about when we tell people to grow in Christ? To grow in Christ means to cultivate a relationship with Jesus so we can be like Jesus. How does this happen? It happens when we begin to study the Word of God. There is a distinct difference between reading the Word of God and studying the Word of God. The main difference lies in the depth that one wants to go into with the scriptures.

Reading the Word of God is often done for inspiration, comfort, spiritual strength, and nourishment. When we read the word of God, we want the words of the Gospel to bring revelation and truth to our hearts and minds.

There are a variety of ways this can be done. Some do it by reading the "Daily Word." These people derive a great deal of inspiration from these devotionals. A devotional is a method used to grow a deeper spiritual connection/relationship with God. These devotionals include daily scripture readings that lead us into a deeper faith, that leads to our trusting and depending on God as a way of life.

Having devotion is different. Having devotion means I am setting aside time in my life to show my love, commitment, and loyalty to God. Devotion is worship because we are taking time, making time, to connect with God.

Studying the Word of God is more than reading the Bible. When we study the Word of God we seek to understand and know the character of God. Studying the Word of God helps us to trust God because we know who God is. The Bible reveals the character of God. When you study the Word of God you learn who God is and what God does. The character of God is seen through the many attributes God displays.

Infinite: God is self-existing and without origin. He has always existed and will always exist (Colossians 1:17, Psalm 147:5).

Immutable: God does not change. His nature, character, and promises remain constant throughout time (Malachi 3:6, Hebrews 13:8).

Omnipotent: God is all-powerful. He has unlimited power and can accomplish anything according to His will (Jeremiah 32:17, Revelation 19:6).

Omniscient: God is all-knowing. He knows everything, including the past, present, and future (Psalm 139:1-4, Isaiah 46:9-10).

Omnipresent: God is present everywhere at all times. There is no place where He is not present (Psalm 139:7-10, Jeremiah 23:23-24).

Holy: God is perfectly pure and without sin. His holiness sets Him apart from all creation (Isaiah 6:3, 1 Peter 1:15-16).

Loving: God's love is unconditional and sacrificial. He loves us with an everlasting love (1 John 4:8, John 3:16).

Just: God is perfectly just and fair. He upholds justice and righteousness (Deuteronomy 32:4, Psalm 89:14).

Merciful: God is compassionate and forgiving. He shows mercy to those who repent and seek His forgiveness (Ephesians 2:4-5, Lamentations 3:22-23).

Faithful: God is trustworthy and reliable. He keeps His promises and is faithful to His word (1 Corinthians 1:9, 2 Timothy 2:13)

Bible Study gives us the knowledge of who God is. When we know who God is, our faith in God grows. It is this kind of revelation, this kind of understanding of God that we all need to grow our faith and trust in Him.

Growing in Christ would be incomplete if we did not talk about the application of God's Word in our lives. No one grows in anything in life if they do not apply what they have read, studied, or learned. When we hold on to anything and allow it to lay dormant in our hands, without trying to use it or apply it, it cannot develop. People learned how to add and subtract because they applied the lessons they learned in the classroom. The only way we can grow in our faith is to apply the lessons of the Word of God to our lives.

There is no shortcut to improving or growing anything in our lives. Everything we want to get better requires our energy, our effort, our time, and our application of it in our lives. Let us grow through the study of the Word of God.

Blessings,
Pastor Gool