



# **God's Answers to Good Questions**

## **Lesson 8 - How Do Christians Grow?**



## PREPARE

- Please read the following passages:
  - 2 Peter 3:17-18
  - 1 Corinthians 3:6-7
  - 1 Peter 2:1-3
  - Ephesians 4:14-16
- Watch the video lesson and complete the Study Guide while watching

## STUDY GUIDE

### I. Is Spiritual Growth Possible?

A. 2 Peter 3:17-18 – *“Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness. 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.”*

1. That's actually Peter's \_\_\_\_\_ words in this letter, and his final address to the church
2. Peter's instruction does not mean that a believer can \_\_\_\_\_ their salvation ... God does not take away or revoke \_\_\_\_\_
3. It is very \_\_\_\_\_, however, for a believer in Christ to get sidetracked and to go off into some very unproductive, \_\_\_\_\_ avenues, and waste a lot of \_\_\_\_\_
4. True believers will always be brought back to the \_\_\_\_\_ but maybe not until after a long period of \_\_\_\_\_ activity

B. Two things are very interrelated and interconnected: If you're growing in the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ, you're also growing in the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ

1. Because knowledge is not just \_\_\_\_\_ about Christ, but it is also a \_\_\_\_\_ to that information, as you grow in personal knowledge, you also grow in His grace because His grace comes to you as you know Him more and more
2. So is spiritual growth possible ... Peter thought it \_\_\_\_\_

## II. How Does Spiritual Growth Happen?

A. 1 Corinthians 3:6-7 – *“I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase.”*

1. \_\_\_\_\_ is the one who makes the seed \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and produce \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_ spiritual growth comes about only ... and always ... because God causes it to happen
3. Pray – “Lord, I am not the Christian I want to be. I'm not the Christian I ought to be. I want to grow to \_\_\_\_\_. Would You please cause growth in my life? Use \_\_\_\_\_ means You want to use or use no means at all. But Lord, give me \_\_\_\_\_.”

B. 1 Peter 2:1-3 – *“Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious.”*

1. Peter says to Christians, “Long for the pure spiritual milk of the Word so that by it you may grow in respect to \_\_\_\_\_, if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord.”
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ means that God employs to bring about spiritual growth in His children is the milk of the \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_, the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments

## III. What Are the ‘Means of Grace’?

A. The \_\_\_\_\_

B. \_\_\_\_\_

1. We bring our \_\_\_\_\_ and thanksgivings, requests and \_\_\_\_\_ to Him, and He responds to us ... we speak to God, and He \_\_\_\_\_ our plea and gives us what we need

2. There is a God who hears and answers prayer because He \_\_\_\_\_  
me ... I am a child ... I am crying out, " \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ "  
and He is giving me what I need

#### C. Sacraments - Baptism and the Lord's Supper

1. Through baptism and the Lord's Supper the grace of Christ is \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to believers
2. In baptism we see the \_\_\_\_\_ of water, washing us,  
\_\_\_\_\_ us, which points us to the \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ which cleanses our souls
3. In the Lord's Supper we see the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of  
Christ represented by the bread and the wine
4. As we partake of the \_\_\_\_\_, we're not just  
eating a bit of bread and drinking a thimble of wine, but we are  
\_\_\_\_\_ upon Christ, spiritually
5. When you're \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, spiritually, what do  
you do? ... you eat of Christ, and you drink His blood, which has been  
\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ to us in the  
elements in the sacrament

#### D. Church Discipline

1. Think of discipline in terms of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Church Discipline is not just hammering people with \_\_\_\_\_... it's  
about real \_\_\_\_\_, real \_\_\_\_\_, real \_\_\_\_\_ in  
your spiritual welfare

#### E. Christian Fellowship

1. Christian Fellowship is when brothers and sisters in Christ  
\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and they \_\_\_\_\_ each other  
and \_\_\_\_\_ each other up

2. Because we are to bear each other's \_\_\_\_\_ and carry each other's difficulties, to \_\_\_\_\_ for each other, to \_\_\_\_\_ with those who weep and to \_\_\_\_\_ with those who rejoice, to \_\_\_\_\_ each other, when we do that, everybody is lifted up

#### IV. What Role Does the Church Play in Spiritual Growth?

- A. The church is supposed to be a greenhouse where believers grow to \_\_\_\_\_
- B. Ephesians 4:14-16 – *“That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.”*
- C. As a church body functions \_\_\_\_\_, with each individual part doing its \_\_\_\_\_, it causes the \_\_\_\_\_ of the body for the building up of itself in love
  1. \_\_\_\_\_ basis - if you are a member of a faithful church which speaks the truth in love, where people care for and love each other, you are individually going to grow in grace
  2. \_\_\_\_\_ basis - if we meet together as a functioning body, all grow together towards maturity