



“For as these things are yours and increasingly abound in you, they will keep [you] from being idle or unfruitful unto the [full personal] knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One).”
2Pet. 1:8 (AMPC).

“For as these qualities are yours and increasingly abound in you, they will keep [you] from being idle or unfruitful... For whoever lacks these qualities is blind, [spiritually] shortsighted, seeing only what is near him, and has become oblivious [to the fact] that he was cleansed from his old sins”¹ Let us take one more deep into the Command to Grow, which is an Imperative for the Christian. In doing so we will remind ourselves of some of the basis for this growth. Firstly, it is a Command from the Lord and head of the Church and Christian – John 15: 1-8, 16; Second, He initiated and intended it, and so it is not Negotiable – John 15:16; Third, Growth is one of fundamental indicators of our belonging to Him – John 15:8; Four, Growth is towards the Almighty God – godliness, incremental in nature, as we fix our gaze on Jesus, take our life’s functioning from Jesus, make the necessary efforts to ‘add to our faith’ under the guidance and submission to the Holy Spirit, the Christian Grows from Glory to Glory, displayed in increasing Uprightness, Quality Service and Usefulness, Maturity, and Sanctification – Romans 12:1-2; Colossians 3:1-3; 2Peter 2:5-7; 2Corinthians 3:18; Galatians 4:19; Phil.3:7-11; Five, He has Equipped/Provided for the Christian, ALL that is needed for Growth – Matthew 28:18, 20b; 2Peter 1:3; Six, Not to Grow is an act of Wilful Disobedience, Rejection of the Lord, being *No Longer Connected To the Vine* -John 1:11; 3:19-20; 15:4, 6; and Seven, it means the Christian is lost, having separated himself from the Head; *in Essence, No Longer a Christian*, and So Is Dead, spiritually in the present time [living dead], and *Dead Eternally At The End Of Time – Cast Away And Burnt* – Matthew 13:42; John 15:2a,6; 2Peter 1:9; 2:21-22.

In light of the above summary, Growth should not be treated carelessly. It is not optional, it is life; and it is not only for those with ‘ministry gifts’, but for ALL Christians because they form the Body of Christ. This fact also places a lot of responsibility on the part of leaders, because if any part of the Body is not functioning well – not growing- then there is death in the Body, and like a Cancer/Leprosy it will soon spread to the whole Body.² This is dangerous; hence, the part(s) that is not growing is cut-off so that it/they do not infect other parts of the Body. But Leaders/All with Ministry Gifts will be held accountable, because Growth into Maturity is the purpose for which they were given the gifts, the purpose of the physical Church.³ This is not the focus of this meditation but it is good to mention it here. This need for Growth is so important to Jesus Christ, such that He lived and taught us the ‘How To.’ It would have been enough for Him to just come as an adult, go to the Cross, and die and resurrect to atone for our Sin(s). But NO; He came, lived among us, taught us by real - life examples, and clear teachings, especially the Sermon on the Mount, and at the Synagogue where He declared His Manifesto so clearly that the people confessed that He taught in a unique manner, with gracious Words, and as One with authority.⁴ Our passage for this week deserves careful attention and analysis, of which a summary will be provided for us, and we are encouraged to go back and look closely at it, just as the Berean Christians.⁵ The believer must know and appreciate that Two Great Resources, - this word, ‘Resources’ - is used with all the Respect and Caution, to refer to ‘Grace’ and ‘Divine Power’,⁶ are provided for them for living the Christian Life. Growth must therefore start from this understanding, and in addition, the knowledge that anyone who becomes a believer, has just One type of Life – the Christian Life. One of the reasons for failure among the Body of believers is the compartmentalization of life – Christian / Sunday Life; Secular Life; Work Life; etc., etc. Jesus Christ, the Apostles, the early Disciples and Believers, did not live such a life. When a person becomes a Christian, ALL things change, and that person becomes a New Creation, who MUST now live in light of this Newness.⁷ Growth MUST consequently be understood as living in light of this Newness, the New Life which has been given to a person through the spiritual work of conversion based on the faith of God exercised by a person.⁸ This Growth Process, Living the Christian Life is what I term the *Second Tense of Salvation – Being Saved, the ‘work out our salvation with fear and trembling’*.⁹ [First Phase is Saved at the acceptance and confession of Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord; and Third Phase is Saved, will be Saved – Heaven]. Fear, not crippling fear, but Awe and Appreciation for how we became saved, and an intentional Commitment to live that pattern of Life which distinguishes one as a Christian, as belonging to Jesus Christ.¹⁰ It is to be aware that though saved, we are still in a world where the enemy of our soul, the devil has power, which he uses to frustrate and tempt believers so that they will fall from the New Life – New Estate, given to them at Conversion at great Cost to God.¹¹ This is the reason for the ‘Fear and Trembling,’ also stated as being ‘Circumspective’ (walk Circumspectly)¹² And in our text, it is discussed as not being blind – spiritually shortsighted, and oblivious of the work of cleansing and atonement in a life.¹³



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So, how do we maintain this life? **First, recognize and know the Unmerited Favour (Grace) and Divine Power which is available to you.** These two bring to you ALL of God’s resources when you need them, making it possible for you to live the New Life. **Second, you MUST make every effort to have the Full personal Knowledge of God,** as you are commanded in 2Tim.2:14-16; 3:16-17. **Third, one must intentionally take of the Glory and Excellence, Virtues of Jesus Christ,** through the active application of the initial faith given to us for our salvation – ‘add to your faith ...’ 2Pet.1:5. **This requires a Deliberate Action of Consciously Partaking in God’s Divine Nature.** It is about Making Real the nature of God in one’s daily life through Obedient living, by intentionally seeking to know and do the things of Heaven (God), as one sets his affection on heavenly things where Christ is seated, and not on the things of the earth that are rotten.¹⁴ The Things above - Virtues of Jesus Christ are ‘His Precious and Exceeding Great Promises’ which are Eternal, the things that make us to escape, as if one is in flight, from the moral decay – rottenness and corruption of the world perpetuated by lust and greed of human beings.¹⁵ The verses that follow now provide a systematic step-by step order of the process that the Christian must follow to Grow and be godly. This provides a Hands-On Manual for Life; hence **IT IS EVERYTHING NEEDED FOR LIVING A GODLY LIFE – 2Peter1:3, 5-7.** So, the Christian is **REQUIRED** to live a godly life (Grow), not just on Sunday, but every moment of life on this side of eternity. The Christian is not permitted to live otherwise, because Jesus Christ died and rose for him to become a Christian – receive a New Life, so that such a person will **No Longer Live for themselves, but instead, live for Jesus Christ.**¹⁶ This is an additional reason why it is dangerous not to live the Christian life – Grow. Apostle Paul challenged and directed Christians in light of the importance of living as Christians indeed to ‘**Put Off**’ the old nature and ‘**Put On**’ the New one which is designed after Jesus Christ, the Head of the Body.¹⁷

Not to Grow therefore, is an abnormality, because it amounts to not being a Christian! One is a Christian because as noted earlier, he has been given a new life. That new life is the only life such a person now has, and it Grows, because it has been **bestowed with all things that are requisite and suited to life and godliness, and Connected to Jesus Christ who is ALWAYS ALIVE.**¹⁸ Put in another way, the Christian is made to Grow, because he is like a baby which grows or dies. **So, it is possible that there are people who call themselves Christians, but are really not because they are not Growing.** And because they are not Growing, they have been cut off from the Vine, waiting to be burned. **So, dear reader, are you Growing?** Are you living the New Life characterized by the Nature – Characteristics of Jesus Christ? Do you desire the things of God as a baby desires milk in order to be alive; take of the things of heaven and make them real in your life, such that people will see Christ in you and give glory to the Almighty God? Is the Holy Spirit, who is also available to you functioning in your life? He is the Helper. If He is with you, Growth will be possible, because part of His function is to Help the Christian.¹⁹ But if you have not yielded to Him and allowed Him to have His way – absolute right and control over your life, **you are grieving Him, and limiting if not stopping Him from His functions in your life.** The possibility of being dead while still living is one of the reasons we are challenged to examine our lives if we are really in the faith; if we have not become counterfeits and completely failed -Reprobates, because it is not all who claim to have faith that actually have the faith of God through Jesus Christ.²⁰ If your life cannot be described as displaying the Virtues/Characteristics of Jesus Christ, you are probably dying or dead (spiritually); and you need to take immediate steps to come back to life. Do not neglect the danger signals. The life of ease, self-will and self-satisfaction, materialism, grabbing, pursuit of worldly things, is not the way of the New Life. Jesus, the Apostles, the Disciples, and the Prophets did not live that type of life. Do not be deceived. You run the risk of being cut-off and burnt with unquenchable fire. Repent and be Restored!

Have A God Centred And Focussed 2026.

Further & Daily Readings: 2Peter 1:2-9; 2Cor.5:11-21. 1.2Pet.1:8-9; 2. Joel 1:4; 2Tim.2:17; 3. Eph.4:12-16; 4. Matt.5-7; Lk.4:16-22; 5. Acts 17:10-12; 6. 2Pet.1:2-3; 7. Jn.3:3-8; 2Cor.5:15-18; 8. Jn.1:12; Rom.4:13-16; 10:17; 9. Phil.2:12; 10. 2Cor.6:17; 11. Jn.17:11-14; 1Pet.5:8-9; 12. Eph.5:14-15; 1Thess.5:4-6; 1Pet.1:13-15; 13. 2Pet.1:9; 14. Col.3:1-2; 15. 2Pet.2:3; 16. 2Cor.5:15; 17. Eph. 4:22-24; 18. Heb.7:25; 13:8; 2Pet.1:3; 19. Jn.14:16, 26; 20. 2Cor.13:5; 2Thess.3:2