

 **ACCM**

**Bible Study: Tuesday Aug 30, 2022**. **Topic: GROWING IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST**

**INTRODUCTION**: Pulse tonight and ask yourself a question; are you growing as a Christian? Whatever answer you give, my next question will be, what are your metrics for measuring the Christian growth? If you do not get the metrics right, your result will be completely wrong. It is like a student who measures his progress in school with the number of friends he has at school. In the same dimension, many believers are measuring their Christians growth by physical blessings. While they may be a part of it, they are not the underlying metrics for Christian growth.

Have you ever looked at a person physically and said to yourself, this person is not growing. What are the things you looked at that made you to conclude that the person isn’t growing. On the spiritual platform, have you ever looked at a Christian and concluded that the person is not growing or have you also looked at a Christian and said to yourself, this fellow has grown so much in the Lord. What are the things that made you to come to this conclusion? For the next two or three bible studies, we will be looking at Christian growth.

**Discussion:**

To grow as a believer, you need to grow in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ and by that I mean you need to walk closely with God.

1. What does it mean to "grow in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ"?
2. What are the metrics for measuring our growth in this knowledge
3. What do we do or what do we need to grow in the knowledge of Jesus Christ
4. Why should we desire to grow in this "knowledge"

**TEXT: II Peter 1:2-11**

We will be using the above texts to answer these questions tonight. The Bible study is going to be focused on what we should do to grow and so before we begin to focus on what to do to grow, we need to check if we are in the proper place for growth.

1. To grow you need to be alive, well and properly positioned. **II Peter1:3-4, John 15:5, II Cor 5:17.**

2. What do we need to grow? [**II Pet 1:5-7**](http://bible.logos.com/passage/nkjv/2Pe%201.5-7)**, Gal. 5:22-23, I Peter 2:2**

1. **WHAT DOES GROWING IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF JESUS CHRIST INVOLVE**

a. FAITH is "conviction, strong assurance" **Heb. 11:1, 6**

b. VIRTUE is "moral excellence, goodness" **Phil 4:8.**

c. KNOWLEDGE is "correct insight" The word is epiginosko, meaning "to become thoroughly acquainted with, to know thoroughly, to know accurately, know well" (THAYER)

This knowledge does not just come by knowing but it comes by demonstrating these things in our lives. You must seek knowledge if you will find it. Knowledge and understanding brings wisdom. **Prov. 4:7. I Chron.12:32 (**It is lack of knowledge that puts you in a second class category)**.**

d. SELF-CONTROL is "self-discipline". **I Cor 9:24-27, Prov. 25:28**

e. PERSEVERANCE is "bearing up under trials" **Rom 5:3-4, James 1:12**

f. GODLINESS is "godly character out of devotion to God" **I Tim 4:8, II Tim 3:12.** Can someone live godly without contentment? Discontent drives one into sin and ultimately eliminates godliness.

g. BROTHERLY KINDNESS is "love toward brethren" **I Thess. 4:9, Heb. 13:1.** This is a special kind of love that exist amongst the brotherhood. We must be very careful about this so we do not become bigots.

h. LOVE is "active goodwill towards others" **I Cor 13:4-8, 13**

How can we grow and be productive as Christians? **II Pet 1:8, Tit 3:14, John 15:2**.

To grow and be productive as a believer, it is not enough to be born again but these things must be in you in abundance. There are some believers who are not productive hence not growing. Productivity and spiritual growth go together. It is when we have these things in abundance that we will begin grow in Him

To mature in God, you must constantly stay within God’s words and within the purview of these virtues. **Heb. 5:13-14**

1. Intellectual knowledge is not sufficient for growth in Christ. I Cor 1:17, I Cor **2:1,4, II Pet 1:16. James 3:13-18, Ecc 1:18, Isa 5:21**,

Such knowledge has its place but it must not replace the virtues of God. That is why God has raised apologetics. We must develop the Christlike attributes if we want to grow in Him

j. A few other things that inhibit Christian growth found in I Cor 11:16, James 3:17.

1. **THESE DO NOT WORK IN ISOLATION**

The word add suggests the idea of each working in harmony with the others to produce an overall effect"

a. They must all be developed in conjunction with each other.

b. We cannot be selective and just pick and choose the ones we like and leave others behind

**C. FOR THESE THINGS TO BE, IT INVOLVES DILIGENCE (And diligence takes effort and it is deliberate)**

1. It takes diligence to grow in God. II Pet 1:5, 10. It means "earnestness, zeal, passion sometimes with haste"

2. To grow in the knowledge of Jesus Christ requires effort and sometimes much of it as we do not "accidently" or "naturally" develop these

**CONCLUSION:**

When we therefore say someone is growing in the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ, these things must constantly be developing in the life of that character. There is no room for ‘that is who I am’. The statement itself connotes failure, backwardness or stuntedness in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ because it negates all what we talked about in this study. You may have also noticed that these things are visible. You cannot therefore say I am growing in the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ and we cannot see these things.