

6-11-23 Children's Sunday
JOURNEY OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Matthew 13:3 And he spake many things unto them in parables, saying, Behold, a sower went forth to sow;

Matthew 13:4 And when he sowed, some [seeds] fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up:

Matthew 13:5 Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth:

Matthew 13:6 And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away.

Matthew 13:7 And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them:

Matthew 13:8 But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold.

Matthew 13:9 Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

Matthew 13:18 Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower.

Matthew 13:19 When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth [it] not, then cometh the wicked [one], and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side.

Matthew 13:20 But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it;

Matthew 13:21 Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended.

Matthew 13:22 He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful.

Matthew 13:23 But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth [it]; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

Spiritual Growth

Intro:

Children years are growing years.. We have a new grandson.. Paxton, he just turned 2 years old. Amazing how much he grows every time we go and see him. He's like a little football player. Our oldest grandson just turned 18 years old. He's about 6 foot tall. It is amazing how quickly children grow. This is what we call Children's Sunday and we gear the service to children. When we think of children we think of growing up. Children years are years of development and growth.. By time we are about 18 – 20

years old we almost stop growing. We generally will not grow any taller. I found a video that a father made of his daughter's growth from newborn to 18 years old. It is amazing when you look at 18 years of growth what miraculous work God does in our lives.

Growth is one of the great signs of life.

Most of the physical growth of a child will take place in their early childhood years. Most stop getting taller by age of 18..

But more important than physical growth is Spiritual growth .. It is important that young people grow in the Lord in their early years.

Every parent needs to encourage spiritual growth in the lives of their children..

Paul said this to Timothy...

II Timothy 1:5 When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also.

II Timothy 3:14 But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned [them];

II Timothy 3:15 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

II Timothy 3:16 All scripture [is] given by inspiration of God, and [is] profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

Young people who learn the Bible can grow up and do great things for God.

This morning I want to talk to each of you about the most important growth you can experience in this life... THAT GROWTH IS: Spiritual growth..

***I. TO GROW SPIRITUALLY YOU NEED TO BE SAVED
FIRST CONSIDER WHAT YOU NEED TO GROW SPIRITUALLY***

YOU NEED TO BE SAVED... Before you can grow you need to be saved and have spiritual life..

You get saved by receiving God's word in your heart..

Jesus told a story once about a man who went forth to sow seed.. He likened God's preachers to those who sow seeds. The seed is the gospel

There actually was a man that lived many years ago that went around the country sowing apple seeds. They called him Johnny Apple seed.. he went all over the country planting apple orchards..

The message is God's seed and your heart is the ground which receives the seed

Jesus said there were three hindrances that hinder the gospel from growing in your heart..

Sometimes.. the devil will try to snatch the seed out of your heart..

Sometimes.. the world will try to choke the word out of your heart by distracting you.. always something in the world going on...

Sometimes.. bad friends will try to choke the seed from every growing..
Sometimes..

But when you protect your heart and let the word of God grow in your heart.. you will be saved and now you can grow.

Jesus said that there are hindrances to being saved..

**1. THE DEVIL WILL HINDER YOU
CONSIDER THE DEVIL WILL TRY TO PLUCK THE WORD OF GOD OUT OF
YOUR HEART**

Jesus said, some seed falls by the wayside where the fowls of the air or the wild vulturous birds peck away at the word and steel it from your heart.

We must believe the word of God by faith.. The only way you can understand the word of God is through faith..

The devil introduces doubt.

Hebrews 11:3 Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.

To doubt the word of God is to doubt God..

When you plant a seed in the ground and a wild animal comes and digs it up and removes it, that seed cannot grow. So it is will the gospel message in your heart. If you let the devil into your heart, he will replace the word of God with his evil thoughts and ideas.

**2. WRONG FRIENDS WILL HINDER YOU
JESUS SAID SOME SEED FALLS ON ROCKY GROUND AND THE ROCKS
PREVENT THE SEED FROM GROWING..**

Jesus said the rocky ground are friends who come along and make fun of you for being a Christian. Or they may make fun of you for trying to live for God. We ought never to be ashamed of being a Christian, or for obeying God and living the way he wants us to live.

Rocks are hard.. and unsaved people have hard hearts. Don't let their hard hearts harden your heart to the word of God..

3. THE PLEASURES OF SIN WILL HINDER YOU

JESUS SAID SOME SEED FALLS AMONGST THE THORNS AND THISTLES..

Thorns and thistles are the pleasures of sin and things of this world that you want to put above God.

For adults that could be making money..

For young people it could be having fun, before I was saved I wanted to do things in this world that the Bible said were wrong. I had to be more willing to serve and obey Jesus then enjoy the pleasures of these things in this world.

Jesus said these things will choke the gospel out of your heart.

There will be no room for Jesus as long as you allow the thorns and thistles to choke the life out of you..

Satan is the one who does this.

Satan will get people to doubt the Bible.. and reject the Bible.

He blinds people's minds to the word of God.

4. IF YOU OVERCOME THESE, GOD'S SEED WILL TAKE ROOT IN YOUR HEART AND YOU WILL BE SAVED!

BUT THE PERSON WHO LETS THE SEED OF THE GOSPEL TO TAKE ROOT IN THEIR HEARTS IS THE PERSON WHO RECEIVES THE WORD OF GOD WITH A GOOD HEART

Matthew 13:23 But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth [it]; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

This is the begging of spiritual growth..

II. TO GROW SPIRITUALLY YOU NEED TO CRY OUT TO GOD IN PRAYER

EVERYONE THAT HAS SPIRITUAL LIFE WILL NATURALLY CRY OUT IN PRAYER..

Galatians 4:6 And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.

Everyone who is saved and has spiritual life will want to pray to their Heavenly Father.

The first thing that a baby does when it is born is it cries out..

It cries out.. for milk... from its mother..

It is the first sign of life.. THAT CRYING OUT..

III. TO GROW SPIRITUALLY YOU NEED TO DESIRE TO LEARN GOD'S WORD After You're Saved You Need To Desire to Learn God's Word..

When a baby is born physically it cries and why do you think it is crying.. It is crying out for its mother to feed it..

I Peter 2:2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

Just like you need to eat physical food to grow physically..
So too you need spiritual food to grow spiritually..

If you have received the good seed of God's word in your heart..
If you are indeed saved and have accepted Christ into your heart.
You need to grow. You grow by reading the Bible and learning more about Jesus.

The Bible is spiritual food to your spiritual life.

II Peter 3:18 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.

Ephesians 4:15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, [even] Christ:

IV. TO GROW SPIRITUALLY YOU NEED TO ATTEND CHURCH REGULARLY After You're Saved And You Read Your Bible You Will Learn That You Need to Attend Church

In the natural course of things God intended a baby to be raised by a family.

In the natural course of things God intended for saved people to be part of the the family of God, which is his church..

Ephesians 4:11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

Ephesians 4:12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

Ephesians 4:14 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;

Ephesians 4:15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, [even] Christ:

Just like the Lord gives every baby physical parents.. to be part of a family..

So too we need spiritual family to belong to which is his church..

We need a place where we can grow and learn and be guided in our journey in this life to serve the Lord.

THE CHURCH IS A PLACE OF

Spiritual guidance.. Ephesians 4:11-12 Gave Pastor's teachers...
Need guidance.. and God gave the church for that guidance..

Spiritual protection *That we be no more tossed to and fro*
Eph 4:14 that we be no more children tossed to and fro..

Spiritual training..

Ephesians 4:12 For the perfecting of the saints,

Spiritual service...

Ephesians 4:12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

Spiritual Camaraderie We are a body of believers.. we are the family of God..

Ephesians 4:16 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.

V. TO GROW SPIRITUALLY YOU MUST NOT GIVE UP

It takes Time To Grow.. Be Patient be Consistent..

Give it time.. It's a lifetime race..
It's a lifetime of growth..

It took 20 years for my trees to grow..

Conclusion:

This Journey needs to start as soon as possible.. do it while your young.

REVIEW

TO GROW

- I. We need to be saved
- II. We need to pray
- III. We need to desire the word
- IV. We need to be part of God's family the church
- V. We need to endure and run the race...