

Five Essential Elements of Spiritual Growth

1 Pet. 2:1-3

Introduction:

A. Growth important to every form of life - not necessary to prove - recognized by all.

B. Growth is unto salvation (v. 2 ASV).

1. Lack of growth means deterioration - going backwards.

2. Lack of growth means stagnation - breeds germs, disease and death.

C. We call attention to five essential elements of spiritual growth:

Discussion:

I. There must Be Life for Growth.

A. Lifeless matter cannot grow (men, horses, churches).

B. "Therefore" in verse 1 refers back to being born again (1 Pet 1:22-25)

1. Begotten by gospel (1 Cor. 4:15).

2. Begotten or brought forth by word of truth (Jas. 1:18 KJV, NKJV)

C. Must be raised from dead to new life. (Rom. 6:1-11)

II. There must Be a Place for Growth.

A. Fish cannot live out of water, certain plants cannot thrive in certain areas.

B. Bible shows importance of place shown from many passages

1. Unfruitful soils (Cf. Matt. 13:18-23)

2. Vineyard in a very fruitful hill (Isa. 5:1).

3. Tree planted by rivers of water (Psa. 1:3)

4. Righteous planted in house of the Lord (Psa. 92:12-13).

C. Spiritual growth takes place in Christ (Eph. 4:15-16).

1. Spiritual blessings in Christ (Eph. 1:3).

2. New birth brings one into Christ (Gal. 3:26, 27)

3. New creatures in Christ - new life (2 Cor. 5:17).

D. Evil associations are not conducive to growth (1 Cor. 15:33)

1. Bar and dance hall no place for spiritual growth.

2. Unscriptural churches no place for spiritual growth (1 Cor 15:33 in doctrinal context)

E. Places for spiritual growth.

1. Meeting with saints in scriptural worship.

2. Other wholesome associations.

III. There must Be Nourishment for Growth.

A. Sincere (pure - unmixed - not watered down) milk of the word (Gal. 1:6)

B. Must desire or hunger and thirst. (Cf. Matt 5:6).

C. Built up by the word of his grace (Acts 20:32).

D. Milk for babes, meat for mature. (Heb. 5:12-14).

E. Feeding on moral and spiritual "junk food" will destroy spirituality.

IV. There must Be Cultivation for Growth.

A. Weed out things that hinder growth — malice, deceit, etc. (1 Pet. 2:1)

B. Practice - exercise. (Heb. 5:14).

V. There must Be Patience for Growth.

A. Takes time (Heb. 5:12; cf. Jas 5:7)

B. Patient with young and the weak.

Conclusion:

A. Remembering these things will help us all grow up together in Christ.

B. To grow, you first must be born — why not now?