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
      2. Vineyard in a very fruitful hill (Isa. 5:1).
      3. Tree planted by rivers of water (Psa. 1:3)
   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?