

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 (1:22-25)
 - 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?

