

Spiritual Growth

1 Pet. 2:1-2

Introduction:

- A. Peter, in both epistles, points to the need for Spiritual growth.
 - 1. Constantly adding “Christian graces” (2 Pet. 1:5-7).
 - 2. Growing in grace and knowledge (2 Pet. 3:17-18).
- B. Three essentials one must have to grow is suggested by our text:
 - 1. One must be in a position to grow.
 - 2. One must have the means to grow
 - 3. One must have the desire to grow.

Discussion:

I. The Position to Grow.

- A. By becoming a “newborn babe”
 - 1. Having been born again (cf. Chapter 1:22-25; John 3:3-5).
 - 2. Having become a child of God (Gal. 3:26-27).
- B. By taking of the character of a “babe.”
 - 1. Without malice, guile, etc (v. 1).
 - 2. Totally dependent (Gal. 2:20).
 - 3. Constantly improving.

II. The Means to Grow.

- A. The Word.
 - 1. By which became newborn babes (1:23)
 - 2. Milk at first, then meat later (Heb. 5:12-14).
 - 3. Living, powerful, piercing and discerning (Heb. 4:12).
- B. The pure (sincere - unmixed) word.
 - 1. Unmixed with Jewish perversion (Gal. 2:5).
 - 2. Unmixed with human wisdom and philosophy (Col. 2:8).
 - 3. Unmixed with denominational doctrine.

III. The Desire to Grow.

- A. “Desire ... that you may grow” (v. 2).
 - 1. A baby has strong desire for milk.
 - 2. We must hunger and thirst for it (Matt. 5:6).
 - 3. Delight in it and long for it (Psa. 1:2; 119:174)
- B. The parable of the talents (Matt. 25:14-30).
- C. Too many like “Minnie Pearl’s” brother.
- D. People want to grow in every other endeavor important to them
- E. Every Christian should want grow.
 - 1. In things basic to being a Christian.
 - 2. In skills that make us more productive as Christians.
 - 3. In developing new talents and improving existing ones.

Conclusion:

- A. In the Bible, we have the means of growth.
- B. Are you in a position to grow?
- C. Do you have the desire to grow?