

WARM UP

Growing is normal! The Plunket Society of New Zealand's work is primarily focused on helping to monitor the growth and healthy development of children. When growth is not occurring, then various methods and ministries are sought out to discover why.

The same holds for the spiritual. When growth in relationship to God is stunted or is not occurring, then various things need to be looked at as to why growth is not taking place in a man's life. Growing is giving God right of way continually in our lives.

**READ** 2 Peter 3:18, 2 Peter 1:3-4**BACKGROUND**

This first passage is the summary statement of the Apostle Peter. These are his last known recorded words, and here he is saying keep growing in the grace of God no matter what. This little power-packed letter contains three teaching perspectives: past, present and future.

What is written down as scripture is Simon Peter's testimony. He relates how he has grown and kept growing in his personal relationship with Jesus Christ. The first 12 verses of the opening chapter contain several thoughts on how he kept from stumbling ever again, like he did before when he denied the Lord.

He points out in 2 Peter 1:3-4 that grace, glory and precious, magnificent promises are the basis of a growing, ongoing relationship with Christ. These provisions are available to us all, and are the means by which we men especially are able to stand up to this world's system and overcome it.

QUESTIONS

- 1 What elements can you identify personally that help you keep growing?

- 2 How do you practically apply God's promises (Word) to your life?

- 3 What are some intentional practices you employ to keep your faith growing?

CONSIDER THIS

Throughout the Bible, especially in the Psalms and prophetic writings, our lives are likened to trees (see Psalm 1:3). This picture is of a tree located very close to a water source so that in season there is always fruit, regardless of drought. The key is given in the previous two verses, which are the opening verses of the entire book of Psalms. The picture of a man who was walking, began to stand around, and eventually sat down is very applicable to so many men who once walked but got distracted, stopped, and eventually got tired and sat down. They stopped going; they stopped growing. They listened to the wrong counsel and they stopped meditating upon the Word (Jesus).

Peter, who stumbled badly, never wanted to stumble or deny His Lord ever again. He talked about growing faith, and then he says in 2 Peter 1:10, *"Therefore, brothers, be all the more eager to make your call and election firm, for, in doing so, you will never stumble."*

What is God saying to me?**LET'S PRAY****REAL LIFE STORIES OF GOD'S POWER**

Up until the age of 15 or 16 years old I suffered from a mild form of epilepsy. After Bill prayed for me at one of his meetings I was healed and have not suffered since. I am now 19 years old, so that is about three to four years. So I praise God for that.
Joseph