

CHRISTIAN GROWTH

Question: Is the Christian life static or dynamic?
It is dynamic. There is growth.

I. THE NEED FOR GROWTH

1. From Bible

(1) By Terms Used

- A. Disciples - a learner
- B. Soldier - discipline
- C. Babes - grow (I Peter chapter 2)

(2) By Exhortation to Grow. I Cor. 3:11 ff; Hebrews 5:12 ff;
II Peter 3:18 ff; Matthew 5:48

(3) By Implications from Jesus' Teaching

- A Seed, Mark 4:11 ff;
- A Mustard Seed, Mark 4:30 ff;
- Leaven, Matthew 13:33 ff.

2. Observation of Experience

(1) Growth is a law of birth

(2) The holy dissatisfaction of the Christian experience leads toward growth. God spurs us on Himself.

II. FOES TO GROWTH

1. The Flesh -- *hides on inside & opens door for the devil* that sinful nature and disposition of man which resists the dominion of the Spirit. *Gal 5*

2. The World -- those forces operative in human society around us that stand opposed to the will of God.

3. The Devil -- that evil spiritual personality who attacks from without and utilizes the weakness found within man.

III. THE CONDITIONS OF GROWTH

1. The same as those in the initiation of the Christian life - faith and repentance. Scripture: Col. 2:6.

2. The earnest effort of the Christian in cooperation with the Holy Spirit.

IV. THE GOAL OF GROWTH

1. Perfect Christian character is the goal of Christian growth.

2. This goal gives an impossible possibility to Christian service.

3. This goal is never adequately reached in this life.

4. There is nothing that would preclude the idea that heaven offers constant growth under ideal conditions in the continuance of life after death.