

The source of growth - 1 Cor 15:9, 10: Success stories are always interesting - but not makes great men great - "Learn the secrets of the pros. Xian life - Paul's success story = By the Grace of God I am = not commencing myself but what he is at that moment = no secret = grace of God

1. Define grace = freedom - dwarfed view = God's undeserved favor acting for us - **TWO Things men need** 1) motivation

2) Power = God gives both = in salvation - Enabling grace

2. But it doesn't stop there = 1 Peter 4:10 **manyfold grace**

The beginning place in growth is the Grace of God = 3 things our relation to Grace if we grow:

I - By recognizing that it is the Grace of God - Text =

(1) **all Growth comes from God** - 1 Cor 3 = God gives the increase

Grace is the agent God uses = God's favor

Rom 12:3; 15:15, 16; 1 Cor 3:10; II Cor 1:12; Eph 3:7, 8; 3:2, 4:7; II Thes 1:11, 12; I Peter 4:10

2. Grace is God's undeserved activity in our part = it is God working in us, providing what we need = as a provision - Motivation + Power

Phil 2:12, 13; 1 Cor 12:6; I Thes 13:21; I Thes 4:3 & 5:23, 24

II Cor 12:9; 9:8

why important we recognize Grace of God

1 - **Save us from straining in energy of flesh** - Growth is natural response to provision received

2 - **Assurance of Success** = if it is God, then my weakness is no hindrance & my strength is no help - Key from discouragement thru failure & set back

3 - **Growth is Sovereign** - Growth is sovereign

4 - **Instrument** means right place = no more credit to man & means - even Bible study & prayer

5 - **God will receive the glory's praise** = Text: "It was not all, but God"

wooly asked = "Do you have enough grace to hum out stake - no wish you had - no, you do not need it what I need is grace to live in Malcom's 3 days & reach"

Source of Growth Part II - Intro: there is a human as well as Divine Side - difficult to recognize existence of each & maintain a balance. Xian is responsible = Heb 5:11 ft blame him for not growing - Best seen in 1 Cor 3 - O give increase but we get no word because plant & water - of dirt grows our fault.

Grow

Responding to God's dealings w/ us <sup>why some never grow</sup>

II we must respond to the Grace Received

II Cor 6:1 - received on vain = no effort, no fruit - their nature didn't measure up - were indifferent

1 - Growth is response to nourishment received - plant, tree

Grow comes from O in response to our obedience

2 - write all references to enabling grace linked to faithful discharge of duty. Text: "I labored..." Parable of Talents

3 - ~~it~~ it was the grace of O w/ me = cooperation

4 - Two-fold response (negative = 1 Peter 2:1 - laying aside the things that hinder <sup>Grow is offense II Cor 6:1</sup> - II Peter 2 - man who doesn't grow frets he was purged from old sin)

(2 Positive) obedience to opportunities - II Cor 8 = abound in His grace also

Not passive or laziness - work harder because He is both expression & encouragement = know will succeed

III - we must receive more Grace - There are fresh supplies of grace - our growth depends upon the grace we continue to receive from O - this is our responsibility =

II Peter 3:18; James 4:6; 1 Peter 5:5; II Tim 2:1; Heb 4:16

II Peter 1:2; Heb 12:28

How

1 - By responding to grace already received. Talents

2 - By humbling ourselves before O - James 4:6

3 - Through Trial II Cor 12:9

4 - By obedience - II Cor 9:7,8

5 - By Prayer Heb 4:16