

## Lesson 2: Growing Up in Christ

Our world today likes instant solutions and quick answers for people's needs: Instant foods, rapidly working miracle drugs, instant electronic communications. A half hour T.V. program will create a problem, explore the problem and then solve the problem with ten minutes worth of commercials. As Christians we must remember that there is no such thing as "instant maturity" in the Christian life. Growth in the things of the Lord takes time and hard work. Becoming a Christian begins a lifelong adventure of knowing God better, loving Him more, and growing closer to Him.

### BEGINNING THE CHRISTIAN WALK

*John 3:3*

Before the Lord, by the power of the Gospel, worked faith in your heart, you walked with the world and were under the power of sin. The Bible says that you were born spiritually dead and were part of \_\_\_\_\_ family.

Coming to faith in Christ does not make us mature Christians. The person who has recently come to walk with the Lord is still a \_\_\_\_\_

### CONTINUING OUR CHRISTIAN WALK

*Ephesians 4:13-16*

What is God's desire for you (v. 13, 15)? \_\_\_\_\_

What are immature Christians like? (v. 14)? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What is a spiritually mature person like according to Eph. 4 here?

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

*1 Corinthians 3:1-3*

What does Paul here say is the problem with these people? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

If we are not growing in faith, how are we according to this passage? \_\_\_\_\_

*Hebrews 5:11-14*

Is it normal or not normal to grow in Christ? \_\_\_\_\_

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

What are some of the natural results of spiritual growth? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

If someone continues to stay on milk, what is his problem? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*Revelation 3:15-18*

What is the problem of this church? \_\_\_\_\_

What is it like to be lukewarm? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Why does Jesus want people hot or cold? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What is someone like who is not growing in God's Word (v.17)? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**SUMMARY: A CHRISTIAN'S SALVATION HAS THREE ASPECTS.**

*It is important to understand each one.*

Justification Past event-You have been saved from the penalty and guilt of sin.  
Your Position before God is perfect and right through Christ.

Sanctification Present action-You are being saved from the power of sin.  
Your Condition is that you are becoming Christ-like through God's power.

Glorification Future Event-You will be saved from the presence of sin.  
Your Expectation is to be released from all evil and live in God's pure glory.

God's work of salvation continues in you all your life. He wants us to grow spiritually all of our lives. How do you grow in the faith? The Bible says that in order to grow spiritually, we must grow in the following ways:

- 1) Growth in the study and use of God's Word;
- 2) Growth in participation and dedication to our spiritual family;
- 3) Growth in prayer;
- 4) Growth in worship;
- 5) Growth in witnessing;
- 6) Growth in obedience.

This discipleship class will help you grow in all of these areas. It will take you into the solid food God wants to give to all living and growing Christians.

Which of these 6 areas do you feel a special need for growth?

In your own words, explain why each of the following is important for your continued spiritual growth towards maturity in Christ:

1. Word of God
2. Your church family
3. Prayer
4. Worship
5. Witnessing
6. Obedience

### HOMEWORK

Read 2 Tim. 4:7-8. What is the Christian life like?

What did Paul wait for here?

Read Matt. 6:19-34. What is the mature Christian like?

Reflect on your life for a moment. Write a prayer thanking God for what He is doing in your spiritual life. Be specific. Also ask God to help you grow in areas that you are now weak. Be specific.

