



Knowing is Growing

Special points of interest:

- We must follow Jesus
- Jesus is the true vine
- Jesus sends the advocate
- Giving ourselves to Jesus
- Unity of the faith
- Pressing on to reach the end of the race
- Set your sights on Heaven

Inside this issue:

Growing	I
What is Happening to Me?	I
Questions	4
Memory Verse	4

Growing

All Christian growth is the direct result of a right relationship to God. Bible study, prayer life, church attendance, and witnessing all play a major part in our growing to maturity.

As we are obedient and seek to know God's will, we will grow in our faith and knowledge of Jesus Christ.

“And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him. Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and

you will overflow with thankfulness.”
(Colossians 2:6-7, NLT)

To “follow” here means “to behave in a customary manner, with focus upon continuity of action.”

(Louw-Nida Greek – English Lexicon)

Thus to follow we must allow Christ to lead. By letting our “roots grow” we are receiving our sustenance from Him. He then becomes the foundation upon which our lives are to be “built.”



Christ is our source for all that we require to “grow strong in the truth.”



What is Happening to Me?

Reading:

“I am the true grapevine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch of mine that doesn't produce fruit, and he prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more.

You have already been pruned and purified by the message I have given you. Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you re-

main in me. “Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me is thrown away like a useless



Joy

What is happening?

branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned. But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted! When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples.

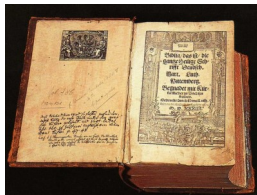
This brings great glory to my Father. “I have loved you even as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love. When you obey my commandments, you remain in my love, just as I obey my Father’s commandments and remain in his love. I have told you these things so that you will be **filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow!**” (John 15:1–11, NLT)

““I have told you these things so that you won’t abandon your faith. For you will be expelled from the synagogues, and the time is coming when those who kill you will think they are doing a holy service for God. This is because they have never known the Father or me. Yes, I’m telling you these things now, so that when they happen, you will remember my warning. I didn’t tell you earlier because I was going to be with you for a while longer. “But now I am going away to the one who sent me, and not

one of you is asking where I am going. Instead, you grieve because of what I’ve told you. But in fact, it is best for you that I go away, because if I don’t, the Advocate won’t come. If I do go away, then I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will convict the world of its sin, and of God’s righteousness, and of the coming judgment. The world’s sin is that it refuses to believe in me. Righteousness is available because I go to the Father, and you will see me no more. Judgment will come because the ruler of this world has already been judged. “There is so much more I want to tell you, but you can’t bear it now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future. He will bring me glory by telling you whatever he receives from me.” (John 16:1–14, NLT)

“And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. Don’t copy the be-

havior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect. Because of the privilege and authority God has given me, I give each of you this warning: Don’t think you are better than you really are. Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves, measuring yourselves by the faith God has given us. Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, so it is with Christ’s body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other. In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly. Don’t just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is



Luther Bible, 1534

What is Happening

wrong. Hold tightly to what is good. Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other. Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically. Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying.” (Romans 12:1–12, NLT)

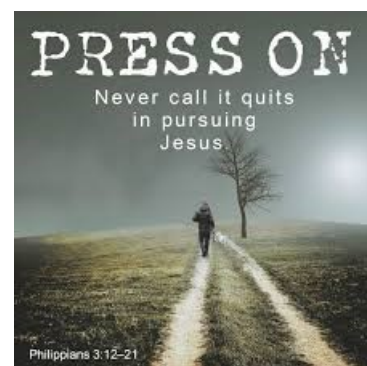
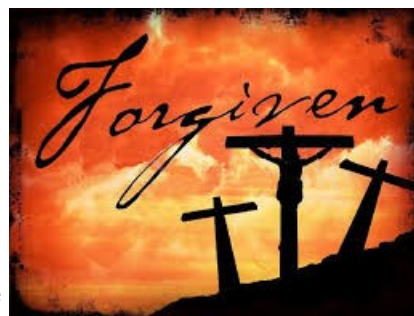
“Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God’s people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God’s Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ. Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won’t be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth. Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. He makes the whole body fit

together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love. With the Lord’s authority I say this: Live no longer as the Gentiles do, for they are hopelessly confused. Their minds are full of darkness; they wander far from the life God gives because they have closed their minds and hardened their hearts against him. They have no sense of shame. They live for lustful pleasure and eagerly practice every kind of impurity. But that isn’t what you learned about Christ. Since you have heard about Jesus and have learned the truth that comes from him, throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception. Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy. So stop telling lies. Let us tell our neighbors the truth, for we are all parts of the same body. And “don’t sin by letting anger control you.” Don’t let the sun go down while you are still angry, for anger gives a foothold to the devil. If you are a thief, quit stealing. In-

stead, use your hands for good hard work, and then give generously to others in need. Don’t use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful,

so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them. And do not bring sorrow to God’s Holy Spirit by the way you live. Remember, he has identified you as his own, guaranteeing that you will be saved on the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, **forgiving** one another, just as God through Christ has **forgiven** you.” (Ephesians 4:11–32, NLT)

“I don’t mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection. But I **press on** to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me. No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies



Philippians 3:12–21

**CHRISTIAN
MILITARY
FELLOWSHIP**



[https://
www.CMFHQ.ORG](https://www.CMFHQ.ORG)

Victorious Christian

<p>Spirit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Born again (John 3:3-16; Acts 2:38-39; Romans 8:9-11) • New creature in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17) • Crucified with Christ (Galatians 2:20) • Living through Christ (John 4:9) a. victorious life (1 Corinthians 15:57) b. more than compares life (Romans 8:37) c. more abundant life (John 10:10) d. eternal life (John 3:16; 17:3) e. fruitful life (Galatians 5:16-23) f. peace (Philippians 4:6-7) g. joy (John 15:5-12) 	<p>Relationships</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rescued to one another by grace (2 Corinthians 5:18-20; 2 Peter 3:18; Hebrews 4:16) 2. Love one another (1 John 4:7-8; 1 Corinthians 13) 3. Trust (Proverbs 3:5-6; Psalm 32:10) 4. Respect (1 Peter 2:17, 3:7; 1 Timothy 3:2-5) 5. Helpful communication (Ephesians 4:29) 6. Forgiving each other (Ephesians 4:32) 7. Praying for each other (James 5:13-15) 8. Worship (Matthew 18:20)
<p>JESUS CHRIST Is Lord! Not Self (Galatians 2:20; John 1:14)</p>	
<p>Soul (personality)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mind attitude of Christ—Christlike behavior (Philippians 2:5) 2. Strength through Christ (Philippians 4:13; Ephesians 6:10) 3. Needs met through Christ (Philippians 4:19) 4. Will of God (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18) 5. Healthy self-esteem through Christ (Galatians 2:20) 6. Damaged emotions healed (2 Kings 20:5; 1 Peter 2:24; Psalm 147:3) 	<p>Body</p> <p>Healing: Isaiah 53:4-5; Psalm 103:2-3; Matthew 8:1-3, 17; 1 Peter 2:24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sin 2. Physical 3. Emotional 4. Mental 5. Spiritual

What is Happening to Me?

ahead, I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.” (Philippians 3:12–14, NLT)

“Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God’s right hand. Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. And

when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory. So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you. Have nothing to do with sexual immorality, impurity, lust, and evil desires. Don’t be greedy, for a greedy person is an idolater, worshipping the things of this world. Because of these sins, the anger of God is coming. You used to do these things when your life was still part of this world. But now is the time to get rid of anger,

rage, malicious behavior, slander, and dirty language. Don’t lie to each other, for you have stripped off your old sinful nature and all its wicked deeds. Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him. In this new life, it doesn’t matter if you are a Jew or a Gentile, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbaric, uncivilized, slave, or free. Christ is all that matters, and he lives in all of us.” (Colossians 3:1–11, NLT)

Questions

1. What kind of life can I have as a born-again Christian? (1 John 5:4)
 2. What is the Bible’s definition of faith? (Hebrews 11:1-13)
 3. How can I grow in my faith? (Romans 10:17)
 4. What two facts must I believe for my faith to be pleasing to God? (Hebrews 11:6)
 5. What do the following verses tell you in regards to living a victorious Christian life? (Luke 9:23) (1 John 2:6) (1 John 2:15-17)
 6. How often should we pray? (Philippians 4:6-7)
 7. Prayer is like oxygen, it will keep us from fainting spiritually. What is the lesson Jesus is trying to teach us from Luke 18:1-8?
 8. What else can I do to pray effectively? (Mark 11:25)
 9. Will my prayers always be answered immediately? (Hebrews 10:35-36)
 10. What are some things I should pray for? (Matthew 6:11-13)
- Memory Verse**
“Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.” (James 5:16, NLT)