

Lesson 6. S-Basic Gospel Points
Point # 5—Growth, Part 1, Areas of Growth

Introduction

In this lesson and in the next two lessons, we study the fifth Gospel point, namely growth. After we believe and are baptized, we continue to grow in Christ throughout our lives.

Fill in the blanks.

1. If branches are part of the _____, they will grow. (Jn 15:5)
2. In the same way, if we are in Christ, we also _____ to be more like Christ and to have character qualities like Him.
3. Christ, Himself, gives us the strength to grow as Christians through His Word, remembering our baptism, and receiving Holy Communion. (Col 1:11a; Php 4:13)
4. Each time the growth point is mentioned one does not have to go into great detail about all the ways to grow in Christ. Usually just one or two ways to grow in Christ should be shared at a time. This is because most new believers can start growing in only one or two areas at a time.
5. In this course we will not be studying Christian growth in great detail. Christian growth will be covered in depth in the module called “Discipling a New Christian.”

Seven Areas in Which We Grow in Christ

1. Church life (Heb 10:25)

When we go to church we grow closer to the Triune God and to our fellow Christians. We also receive strength and guidance for the coming days. Look at the picture of the coals that are burning brightly. One of them has fallen away from the other coals and has become cold. If a person stays away from church and Christian fellowship, his life in Christ grows cold.



According to each of the following passages there are important things that we do at church. Next to the passage, write what we do in church.

- 1) Gal 3:27 _____
- 2) Ac 2:46 _____
- 3) Ac 3:19 _____
- 4) Ac 16:32 _____
- 5) Ps 100:2 _____
- 6) Ac 12:12 _____
- 7) Col 3:16a _____
- 8) Ps 75:1 _____
- 9) Ps 95:1 _____
- 10) Ps 146:1a,10b; 147:1a, 20b; 148:1a, 14b; 149:1a, 9b; 150:1a, 6b _____

2. Personal Bible reading (Col 3:16a)

Fill in the blanks with these words: Mark, verse, not.

- 1) If the person to whom we are witnessing has never heard of Christ, it is wise to tell him to start reading the book of _____ as it is easier reading than the other Gospels. It does not get into deep theology and genealogies which are difficult for the new believer to understand.
- 2) A new Christian should _____ simply open the Bible, point to any verse, and then think that God wants him to do what the verse says. This might make him think he should follow someone's example in the Bible and kill himself, commit adultery, tell someone to rise from the dead, etc.
- 3) Also, a new Christian should not select a single _____ here and there without reading the verses before and after it. If he reads verses out of context, he might get a misconception of the verse's teaching.

3. Prayer

Fill in the blanks with these words: Repentance and asking for forgiveness, Petition, Thanksgiving.

Another area in which a person grows in Christ is prayer. (1Th 5:17)

Some things which we teach people that may be included in their prayers are:

- 1) _____ (Ps 51:1-2) This is because even after we are Christians, we still sin and need forgiveness (1Jn 1:8-9)
- 2) Praise (Ps 150:1-6) We praise God for Who He is, that is His attributes such as loving, omniscient, powerful, omnipresent, etc.
- 3) _____ (Eph 5:20) We thank God for what He gives us, which includes material things as well as spiritual blessings.
- 4) Intercession (Requests for others) (2Th 3:1a)
- 5) _____ (Requests for self) (1Pe 5:7)

4. Choice of close friends

Fill in the blanks with these words: spouse, business.

A new Christian should choose friends, including his spouse, _____ partner, or best friend, who will help him in his Christian walk. (2Co 6:14) He should disassociate himself from the non-Christians in his life who tempt him to do wrong until he is strong enough in Christ so that he will not be tempted by them and will be able to witness to them. (2Co 6:17a) Of course this does not mean that one should disassociate himself from his non-Christian _____. (1Co 7:12-13)

5. A lifestyle of Christian love

Fill in the blanks with these words: love, change, "don'ts".

Christians love one another. (Ro 13:8) We never forget that it is God Who pours His _____ into us thus enabling us to love one another. (Ro 5:5b) A new Christian should not be given a big, long list of _____ such as: don't gamble, don't gossip, don't commit adultery, etc. God will gradually _____ him so that he will not want to do the things that are wrong, and will want to show love toward other people.

6. Witnessing (Mt 4:19)

Fill in the blanks with these words: church, Jesus Christ.

As a fisherman tries to catch fish, we, as Christians, try to get more people to know the Lord Jesus Christ by inviting them to _____ meetings, giving them Bibles, and telling them about _____.

7. Trusting in God (Ro 8:28)

Fill in the blanks with these words: God, good, Christian.

Becoming a _____ does not mean that everything will go smoothly and the believer will have no problems. But for the believer, it is different when he faces problems since he knows that the true ____ will always be there to guide and strengthen him, and to make all things work together for _____. No matter how bad the circumstances, he will have peace in the midst of trouble.

Conclusion

Fill in the blanks with these words: God, die, sinner, joy.

1. We do not grow spiritually to repay Jesus for His love to us. Jesus suffered and died on the cross because He wanted to have us forever in heaven with Him, not because He wanted something from us. He does **NOT** say, "I gave my life for you, what have you done for Me? 我舍我命为你, 你舍何事为我? He was willing to suffer and ____ on the cross joyfully knowing that through His death and resurrection, we would be saved. (Heb 12:2) Jesus said, "There is joy in heaven over one _____ that repents." (Lk 15:10) The death of a Christian is precious in the sight of ____ because that person will be in His holy presence forevermore. (Ps 116:15) The Holy Spirit helps us to grow in Christ because it is good for us.
2. Though it is true that we can never "pay Jesus back" for all that He has done for us, yet at the same time we do naturally grow as Christians. We grow in response to His love for it is His love which compels us to want to live our lives not for ourselves, but for the Lord Jesus Christ. (2Co 5:14-15). Even as branches are in a vine, so we live in Christ, and naturally grow in Him. (Jn 15:5)
3. As a result of being close to Christ and growing in Him, we experience love and joy.
 - 1) When our relationship with Him is close, we live in God's love. (Jn 15:9) As a result, we naturally obey His commandments. (Jn 15:10)
 - 2) If we obey His commandments and thus remain in His love, we experience fullness of _____. (Jn 15:11) In Ps 16:11b, it also says that we experience fullness of joy when we are close to God.

Homework Assignments:

1. Fill in all the blanks in this lesson as directed.
2. Personal Evaluation:
 - 1) Identify at least one of the seven growth areas in which you need to grow.
 - 2) Read the Bible verses related to that area of growth in the text above.
 - 3) Pray about what practical changes you might make in your life in order to grow in that area.
 - 4) Write down the definite actions the Holy Spirit is leading you to take in order to change.
 - 5) This homework assignment does not have to be turned in. But if you are interested in discussing this homework assignment with your teacher, he will be happy to talk with you.