



Grow Up in Every Way

May 3, 2020

What We Believe

An eight-week series on Valley's Statement of Beliefs

We are commanded in Scripture to "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:18). Valley's statement on "Christian Conduct" points out that growing to maturity in Christ is part of every Christian's journey.

CHRISTIAN CONDUCT — We believe that each Christian should live for the glory of God and the well-being of their fellowmen; that their conduct should be blameless before the world; that they should be faithful stewards of their possessions and that they should seek to realize for themselves and others, the full stature of maturity in Christ. (II Cor. 9:6-8; Eph. 4:11-16; Phil. 2:14-16; Col. 3:17-23; I Thess. 5:17,18)

Growing to be more like Jesus

Sanctification is the continuing work of both God and the Christian. This lifelong process transforms us to be more and more like Jesus in our everyday lives. Just as babies and plants are expected to grow, we know that if they are not growing, something is wrong.

[Q] What are the purposes of growing according to Ephesians 4:11–16?

Grow in Knowledge


We grow to be like Jesus first by growing in our knowledge of Him. It stands to reason that we cannot grow to be like someone we don't know. The deeper our knowledge of Christ, the deeper our understanding of Him, and the more like Him we become.

[Q] When can we stop growing in knowledge of God? (Trick question!)

- When we get a Doctor of Divinity degree.
- When we've memorized the entire Bible.
- When we get to Heaven.
- Never.

God is infinite, so growing in knowledge of Him is an amazing ongoing benefit of belonging to Him. We'll never get bored.

*Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!
How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! Romans 11:33*


 **Growth Tip:** Ask God right now for a hunger for Him and a thirst for His Word.

[Q] From the following passages, how does a person of God thrive in wind, drought or heat (or pandemic)?

Psalm 1:1-6

Jeremiah 17:7-8

[Q] Just as humans and plants need nutrients to grow properly, Christians need spiritual nourishment. How can you make feasting on the Bible a priority this week? What help do you need?


 **Growth Tip:** As you read the Bible, ask: what attributes of God (Father, Son, Spirit) do I see? How does this passage point to Jesus or the need for Jesus?

[Q] Has the coronavirus crisis brought out fears, self-centeredness, habits, speech or thoughts that you need God's help with? What specific promises from God's Word can you meditate on this week?

Grow in Obedience

[Q] The knowledge we gain from God's Word must shape our hearts and convict us of the need to obey what we have learned. What does Romans 12:1-2 tell us about the relationship between growing in knowledge and growing in obedience?

[Q] God has given us the Holy Spirit to help us grow. Read Galatians 5:16-25. What does it look like to walk by (be led by) the Spirit? What are the results?

 **Growth Tip:** What strength to grow are you needing today?
Admit that without Christ you can do nothing. (John 15:5; Romans 7:18)
Pray: Ask God to help you, to work in you. (Psalm 50:15)
Trust His promise to help, strengthen, guide. (Choose specific promises relating to what you are dealing with.)
Act in obedience to God's Word. (Philippians 2:12-13)
Thank God and give Him the glory for any good that comes! (Psalm 106:1) *

This week, read:

- Philippians 3
- 2 Peter 3
- Galatians 5
- Galatians 6
- Psalm 19

*Adapted from Pastor John Piper: desiringgod.org/articles/how-to-find-strength-in-the-strength-of-god