

Keys To Spiritual Growth

II Pet. 1:14-18

II Pet. 3:14-18

- 14 Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless. 15 And account *that* the longsuffering of our Lord *is* salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; 16 As also in all *his* epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as *they do* also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction. 17 Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know *these things* before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness. 18 ***But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*** To him *be* glory both now and for ever. Amen. (cf. Heb. 5:11-6:3ff)

Hebrews 5:11-6:4

- 11 Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing.
- 12 For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which *be* the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.
- 13 For every one that useth milk *is* unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe.
- 14 But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, *even* those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

Hebrews 5:11-6:4

- 1 Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and *go on to maturity*, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God,
- 2 and of instruction about washings, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment.
- 3 And this we will do if God permits.
- 4 For it is impossible, in the case of those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit,

Introduction

- The importance of growth as a child of God – becoming more and more complete, mature in our knowledge of God’s word, our relationship with him and service in his kingdom.
- Becoming more and more focused in our hearts and minds on His will and those things that are spiritual and eternal in nature.
- As the Hebrew writer said to determine the difference between good and evil.
- Parallels between physical growth and spiritual growth. (Lk. 2:40,42)
- Necessities for normal physical growth, and the problem of failing to grow and become more mature. There is a birth that brings one into this world. There is the necessary nourishment and conditions. There is exercise/activity necessary for development. The exercise of discernment, making choices and understanding the consequences. And there is the simple matter of time for those things to bring about a mature being. No one is born full grown.
- So too it is true in the life and growth of a child of God.

Keys To Spiritual Growth

- One must be born again.
 - Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth... (Js. 1:18; cf. I Pet. 1:23)
 - “...Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God...Except a man be born of water and *of* the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. (Jn. 3:3-5)
 - Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. (II Cor. 5:17)

Keys To Spiritual Growth

- Proper nourishment and conditions:
 - Feeding on the word of God.
 - As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: (I Pet. 2:2)
 - 15 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. 16 All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17 That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works. (II Tim. 3:15-17)

Keys To Spiritual Growth

- Proper nourishment and conditions:
 - Feeding on the word of God.
 - “... Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. (Js. 1:21 -- ESV)
 - 4 (For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) 5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; (II Cor. 10:4-5)
 - Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it *are* the issues of life. (Prov. 4:23; cf. Matt. 15:18ff)

Keys To Spiritual Growth

- Proper nourishment and conditions:
 - Feeding on the word of God.
 - Exercise.
 - 22 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. (Js. 1:22; cf. 26-27)
 - 14 But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, *even* those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil. (Heb. 5:14)
 - Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word. (Acts 8:4)

Keys To Spiritual Growth

- Proper nourishment and conditions:
 - Feeding on the word of God.
 - Exercise.
 - Godly Associations.
 - Do not be deceived: “Bad company ruins good morals.” (I Cor. 15:33 – ESV)
 - My son, if sinners entice thee, Consent thou not. (Prov. 1:10; cf.)
 - Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm. (Prov. 13:20)

Keys To Spiritual Growth

- Proper nourishment and conditions:
 - Feeding on the word of God.
 - Exercise.
 - Godly Associations.
 - Wisdom.
 - 10 When wisdom entereth into thine heart, and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul; 11 Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee: 12 To deliver thee from the way of the evil *man*, from the man that speaketh froward things; 13 Who leave the paths of uprightness, to walk in the ways of darkness; (Prov. 2:10-13; cf. Js. 1:5)

Keys To Spiritual Growth

- Time.
 - For though by this time you ought to be teachers... (Heb. 5:12 – ESV)
 - For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. (II Pet. 1:8)
 - 9 Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; 10 And have put on the new *man*, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him: (Col. 3:9-10)

Keys To Spiritual Growth

- Time.
 - Faith _____
 - Repentance _____
 - Confession _____
 - Baptism _____
 - Grace _____
 - Love _____
 - Resurrection _____
 - Heaven _____
 - Hell _____
 - Melchizedek _____

Keys To Spiritual Growth

- Feeding on the word of God.
- Exercise.
- Godly Associations.
- Wisdom.
- **Effort.**
 - Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth. (II Tim. 2:15 -- ESV)
 - Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: (II Pet. 1:10)

Keys To Spiritual Growth

- Trials.
 - 2 My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; 3 Knowing *this*, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. 4 But let patience have *her* perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing. (Js. 1:2-4; cf. Rom. 5:3-5; I Pet. 1:7-9)

The Seed...

- Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. (Lk. 8:11)
- But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep *it*, and bring forth fruit with patience. (Lk. 8:15)