

“GROW IN CHRIST – GO FOR CHRIST”

2 PETER 3:1-18; MARK 16:15

PART ONE

INTRO: At the beginning of each year, we here at FBC normally seek God’s direction for a theme for the year ahead. So, as the Lord has led, our theme for 2025 will be **“GROW IN CHRIST – GO FOR CHRIST.”** As you can see, the theme presents quite a challenge for each of us. The reality of the theme is that **AS WE GROW IN CHRIST, WHICH IS WHAT GOD EXPECTS, WE WILL GO FOR CHRIST, WHICH IS ALSO WHAT GOD EXPECTS OF US WHO MAKE UP HIS CHURCH.** In other words, as we GROW IN CHRIST, we will naturally GO WITH THE MESSAGE OF CHRIST. Today we will begin to focus on this theme and so let’s each of us allow the Holy Spirit to teach us that which He would have us to know so that we can live a life of obedience in 2025.

SOME CONSIDERATIONS:

The concept of GROWING IN CHRIST involves a life-long spiritual discipline for each Christian to become **MORE LIKE CHRIST** in all things so that we can properly represent Him while we are here on earth.

1) **SPIRITUAL GROWTH** should be the normal pattern of every Christian, and yet there are many Christians who **DO NOT GROW SPIRITUALLY.**

2) **SPIRITUAL GROWTH** is **THE PROCESS OF DEVELOPING INTO A MATURE, SPIRITUALLY-MINDED CHRISTIAN FROM THE POINT OF BEING BORN AGAIN AND THUS, BEING A BABE IN CHRIST, TO BEING A STRONG MATURE CHRISTIAN ACCORDING TO THE EXPECTATION OF GOD.**

1 Corinthians 2:14-3:3; Hebrews 5:11-14

3) **SPIRITUAL GROWTH** is both a deterrent to apostasy (1 Peter 3:17) and a command of scripture (1 Peter 3:18).

4) **SPIRITUAL GROWTH** involves having an understanding and an appreciation for **TWO GREAT CONCEPTS OF BIBLICAL TRUTH** which are **THE GRACE OF CHRIST AND THE KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST – 1 PETER 3:18**

I. THE COMMAND TO GROW IN THE GRACE OF CHRIST

THE ONE WHO GROWS IN THE GRACE OF CHRIST WILL BE GROWING TO MATURITY IN CHRIST

A. This involves comprehending the ministry of Christ.

-John 1:1-3; 11-18

B. This involves comprehending the ability for Christian Service

-Romans 12:6; 15:15,16; 1 Corinthians 1:3-7

C. This involves comprehending necessary strength for facing Trials.

-2 Corinthians 12:1-10

D. This involves comprehending the enablement for Spiritual Growth

-1 Peter 5:10

E. This involves comprehending the Ministry of Giving

-2 Corinthians 8:1-9

II. THE COMMAND TO GROW IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST

THE ONE WHO GROWS IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST WILL HAVE A PROPER RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST

A. This involves Knowing Christ as Savior

-John 17:3

B. This involves Knowing Christ as Lord

-Philippians 2:9-11

C. This involves Knowing Christ as Shepherd

-John 10:27-30

D. This involves Knowing Christ as Judge

-2 Corinthians 5:10,11

WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO GROW IN THE GRACE AND KNOWLEDGE OF JESUS CHRIST?

- 1) It takes spending time in the Word of God
- 2) It takes spending time in True Worship
- 3) It takes spending time in Serious Prayer
- 4) It takes spending time in Walking in the Spirit

LESSON AND APPLICATION

APART FROM GROWING IN THE GRACE AND THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST, ONE WILL NOT UNDERSTAND THE GREATNESS OF CHRIST'S MINISTRY AND PERSON. MANY CHRISTIANS ARE SPIRITUALLY WEAKENED BECAUSE THEY HAVE NEVER GROWN IN THESE AREAS.

ONE WHO DOES NOT GROW IN THE GRACE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST WILL GROWN IN DISGRACE.
ONE WHO DOES NOT GROW IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST WILL WANDER ASTRAY INTO FALSE DOCTRINE.