

THE EXAMINER

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The Christians Growth In The Lord - by Richard Thetford

Once an individual puts on Christ in baptism, they should be determined to please God in all aspects of their life. But before one can begin to grow, one must first possess an attitude that says; "I want to grow as a Christian in order to be pleasing to God." We are going to be discussing several areas in which a Christian is to grow in the Lord, but before one can grow, one must have a good attitude, **wanting** to do God's will in all things. We all must understand that it is not so much what a person knows or is able to do or possess, but rather the question is what kind of person am I. Perhaps all of us have witnessed only too often an ugly spirit or attitude that has brought great harm. A bad attitude can spoil almost any situation. On the other hand, a good attitude can enhance, or make right almost any adverse condition that may exist. Therefore, in order for a Christian to grow in the Lord, one must first have a good attitude, wanting to be a faithful child of God in ALL

things.

In What Are We to Grow?

The apostle Peter writes that Christians are to "*grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ...*" (**II Peter 3:18**). Many Christians are not grounded in Christ mainly because they simply have not gained knowledge of our Lord. There is only one way in which we can gain knowledge and that is through study (**Romans 10:17; II Timothy 2:15**). If Christians would devote time to study and meditation of God's Word, then they will be able to grow so as to be pleasing to God. We are also instructed in **II Thessalonians 1:3** and **II Corinthians 10:15** to grow in faith. The more faith that we have the stronger our love and devotion to God is. A Christian must strive to grow in knowledge and faith.

How Can We Grow?

Before we can grow in order to be pleasing to God, we must **first** put away worldliness. We must truly be transformed from our old ways

to a life of service and devotion to Christ (**Romans 12:1-2**). Wickedness, guile, hypocrisies, envies, evil speakings, etc. must be done away with (**I Peter 2:1**). We cannot begin to grow while holding on to worldly appetites! We can only grow when we are determined (right attitude) to learn of God. We must "*desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby*" (**I Peter 2:2**). The Christian that desires to please God wants to know everything they possibly can about what God expects of them (**I Corinthians 3:2; Hebrews 5:13-14**). It is through the knowledge of His Word that we also learn to speak the truth concerning His Word. The apostle Paul writes; "*but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head -- Christ*" (**Ephesians 4:15-16**). The more we know then the more confidence we gain in teaching others the **truth** of His Word.

Unto What Shall We Grow?

Every Christian should desire to grow in the Lord in order to obtain salvation. Although we will never be perfect, we can certainly strive to be perfect (**Matthew 5:48**). Eternal salvation will only be realized by those individuals that are devoted to serving and obeying God. The Christian knows that their body is a holy temple. Paul writes "*in whom the whole*

building, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit" (**Ephesians 3:21-22**). Therefore Christians know that they will treat their body in a way which is pleasing to God. The body (the temple), grows into subjection to God's will as the Christian with a good attitude understands that their body is the temple and that the body and the spirit is God's. "*Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's*" (**I Corinthians 6:19-20**). In order to glorify God in our body we must grow to understand that we cannot do anything to our body that would be displeasing to God (**Matthew 5:16**).

Why Should We Grow?

We must possess an attitude of growth in the Lord because it is commanded (**II Peter 3:18**). Our growth in faith and love causes thanksgiving. Paul wrote: "*We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you all abounds toward each other*" (**II Thessalonians 1:3**). When we grow in the Lord

we become strong. The more we learn, the more we are able to receive the solid food of the gospel of Christ (**I Corinthians 3:2**). May we all possess an attitude that says "I want to be pleasing to God in all things." I want to encourage all of us to constantly examine ourselves to ensure that we are doing all things according to the will of God (**II Corinthians 13:5**). If so, then we are continuing to grow in the Lord.

What is a Home Without a Bible?

By Dennis C. Abernathy
Butler, Alabama

As I was reading the following poem, I was made to wonder just how many homes there are without Bibles.

What is a home without a Bible?

'Tis a borne where day is night,
Starless night, for o'er life's
pathway,

Heaven can shed no kindly light.
What is a home without a Bible?

'Tis a home where daily bread
For the body is provided,
But the soul is never fed.

What is a home without a Bible?

'Tis a family out at sea;
Compass lost and rudder broken,
Drifting, drifting, thoughtlessly.
What is a home without a Bible?

List! and ponder while I speak;
'Tis a home with Bibles in it,
But opened not once a week!

How well the poem says it.
There are countless multitudes in

the world who never read the Bible. Churches are made up of people who claim to follow the Bible as a guide, but who never bother to arouse the dust on the cover to open it. We hear it stated that the Bible tops the best seller lists (and this is good) but, I am afraid there are more Bibles sold than are read and studied! Christian, are you guilty also? For shame!

About all many know about the Bible is what they have been told, or picked up somewhere. This is why there is so much confusion in the religious world, and why there are so many people believing so many different doctrines.

The person that will not study the Bible is a lazy person. Hell will be filled with those claiming to be Christians, but who never studied the orders of the Captain of our salvation. If we could just realize that the Word of God will be the standard by which we will be judged in the last day (Jn. 12:48). Be not deceived into thinking, you can plead ignorance.

Do not trust the salvation of your soul to a "hit-and-miss" kind of knowledge of what God will have you to do. Be a man, stand on your own two feet, and study your Bible diligently and you can stand approved before God (**2 Tim. 2:15**). The Word is the truth (**Jn. 17:17**). It can make you free (**Jn. 8:32**). But, you must have the initiative to search it (**Jn. 5:39**;

Acts 17:11). Is your home a "home with a Bible" or a "home without a Bible"? Think about it! **Via Truth Magazine XXI: 5, p. 77 February 3, 1977**

If All...by R.G. Lee

If all the sleeping folk will wake up,
If all the lukewarm folk will fire up,
If all the dishonest folk will confess up,
If all the disgruntled folk will brighten up,
If all the depressed folk will cheer up,
If all the estranged folk will make up,
If all the gossipers will shut up,
If all true soldiers will stand up,
If all the dry bones will shake up,
If all the church members will pray up...
Then we would have a revival!

