

**“...but grow in the grace and
knowledge of
our Lord and Savior
Jesus Christ.
To Him be the glory,
both now and to
the day of eternity.
Amen.”**

II Peter 3:18

Growing in Christ: The Goal...

**We are to grow in Christ-likeness,
being conformed to His character,
bearing fruit and
growing in good works**

Factors in Growing in Christ:

- Salvation!
- Scripture: Meaningful encounters with the Word of God!, Col. 3:16
- Abide in Christ, John 15:1-16
- Discipline Yourself Toward Godliness, I Timothy 4.
- Baptism.

Factors in Growing in Christ:

- “Latreia Living” ↔ “Worship-Service” Lifestyle
- Have Meaningful Encounters with One Another: Body-Life, Community; Serving and Being Served!
- “Mind-Control”
- Facing Temptations

Facing Temptation...

Some helpful suggestions:

- Commit yourself to Godliness in advance!
- Know your weaknesses!
- Avoid tempting situations (or people) when you can!
- Be extra careful when you are extra vulnerable!

Facing Temptation...

Some helpful suggestions:

- **WHEN** tempted...**GET OUT OF THERE!!**
- Memorize Scriptures that deal with your weaknesses! Quote them when you are tempted.
- **KNOW** that you can be victorious over them, as you rely on God and His power and His Word!

Facing Temptation...

Some helpful suggestions:

- Be confident but not arrogant! Be careful but not intimidated!

Temptation to sin
will be a recurring reality
of life in this flesh,
and we grow when we
resist it,
and forgiveness is
available when we do not!

Factors in Growing in Christ: Enduring Trials and Suffering!

**We should expect
trials and suffering:
Acts 14:22; I Thess. 3:3;
II Tim. 3:12.**

Trials & Suffering in Spiritual Growth:

- Jesus' Example, Hebrews 5:7-10.
- James' Explanation, James 1:2-5, 12.
- Paul's Elaboration, Romans 5:3-5.

tribulation/affliction

→ endurance

→ proven character

→ hope

Trials & Suffering in Spiritual Growth:

- Jesus' Example, Hebrews 5:7-10.
- James' Explanation, James 1:2-5, 12.
- Paul's Elaboration, Romans 5:3-5.
- Peter's Elucidation, I Peter 1:6-7, 13

Suffering is Intended to Produce Spiritual Growth, as it...

- Produces Endurance
- Produces Proven Character
- Strengthens our Hope!
- “Weans us” from loving this world, I John 1:15-17; Habakkuk 3:17-19

Suffering is Intended to Produce Spiritual Growth, as it...

- Redirects our “focus” to Jesus and our eternal rewards, rather than our present circumstances, II Cor. 4:16-18; Philippians 1:21; Psalm 73, esp. vv. 25-26.
- Produces humility, II Cor. 12:7

Suffering is Intended to Produce Spiritual Growth, as it...

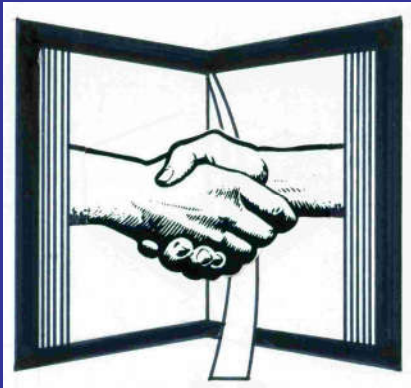
- Equips and prepares us to minister to others! II Cor. 1:3-5
- Causes us to “groan,” longing for Jesus, and the world to come!
Romans 8:18-24; II Corinthians 5:1-5.

Suffering is Intended to Produce Spiritual Growth, as it...

- Forces us to fix our hope on Jesus, and trust in Him, I Peter 4:12-19, esp. 19.

Romans 8:28 says that
God causes all things
to work together for good
to those who love God.

That includes suffering!



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