



Day By Day — Growing in the Lord

Devotion

I want to be a fireman when I grow up. I want to be a doctor or a nurse — a teacher — an astronaut — a police officer — a banker — and the list goes on and on. Children are always excited about what they can be and do when they are grown or mature. For them, the sky is the limit! How sad that, as adults, we often forget the excitement of growing and changing.

This can be true of Christians also. Some believe that once we have been confirmed and attend church regularly, we are all grown-up, mature in our faith. A devout Christian lady who was a strong prayer warrior was often heard praying that God would "grow her." A friend asked her one day why she always prayed that way. She replied, "One can never stop praying for the Lord to grow us in knowledge, faith, and trust." How right she was!

Colossians 2:6–7 says: *Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.* Later in the same chapter, Paul assures us our baptism frees us from the restraints that interfere with our growth. According to verse 12, we were *buried with him* [Christ] and *raised with him* [Christ]. Therefore, we can grow in faith and knowledge, in spiritual wisdom and understanding. We can prayerfully walk in a God-pleasing manner.

So, how do we mature or grow in the Lord? Be **in** the Word. Think about increasing your private devotion time or daily Bible reading. Attend a Bible study or studies. Allow the Spirit to lead you in your study of Scripture; you don't always have to be in charge. Pray for guidance that the Lord would "grow you" in your faith and trust. Let the Lord, through the Holy Spirit, speak to you — instead of you always speaking to the Lord.

Saint Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 13:11–12: *When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.* We know that we will never fully mature as Christians until we join our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, in eternity; but, until that day, we can say with Paul in Colossians 1:28: *Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ.*

Prayer: Lord Jesus, in Your mercy, guide and lead us as we study Your Word daily. Help us to understand what it means to grow spiritually, in our relationship with You and others. May the Holy Spirit allow Christ's message to abide and be alive in our hearts. Amen.

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