

**“God Gives the Growth” 1Corinthians 3.7**

Matthew 28.20 *“Go therefore and make disciples.....Teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.”*

Peter gave us a question that should be with us at every stage of our life

Q... Do we help others grow in their faith towards Christ and God?

In the instruction from Jesus to the apostles it is important for them to see and do. Acts 2.41-42 This gives growth to the emerging church in Christ.

To observe requires us to receive the instruction and then to act on it and be part of its working out. We always need to act in obedient faith and so allow God to give the growth in our lives. This will allow others to observe the growth in our lives and so be encouraged to grow.

Look at Ephesians 2.8-10, as a new creation in Christ how do you live out the gift of God, remembering that we are alive together with Christ? (Verse 5)

Paul inspired by the Holy Spirit gives a brilliant picture of the garden of God growing in our lives in his letter to the Galatians, 5.16-26. First the vital need to dig out the weeds and then to desire and allow the Holy Spirit to bring forth fruit. This will bring about in us an ever growing maturity in Christ. We can see that the Holy Spirit preparing our lives for something very special, the hope that we have in Christ. An insight of that hope is given us in Revelation 22.1-5.

It is not a matter of, ‘let go and let God’, but we need to nurture an active desire to embrace the new creation life that He wants to grow in us. We have been given a really good measure to see if we are growing and maturing. Are we allowing the Word of God to be effective in our lives?

Go to 1Corinthians 12.27 and read through to the end of chapter thirteen.

We were asked by Peter; How do you grow, are you maturing in Christ?

I encourage you spend time praying through Colossians 3.1-17, note what we are told to put death and put away from us. Begin each day thanking God that the old has gone, it died in Christ, nailed to the cross and buried. This leaves the ground of our lives freer to grow, to put on this glorious life in Christ that is now ours. If we let this become the regular pattern of our lives then we will be able to stand in the climate of opposition today.

***“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me, and the life I now live in this body I live by faith in the Son of God, who LOVED me and GAVE HIMSELF for me.”Galatians 2.20***