



Get Up **and** Grow!

Starting thought...

It's easy to measure growth with a child - every few months you just draw a line on the back of a cupboard door. But how can you tell if a CHRISTIAN is GROWING?

Looking back over the last year, do you think you've been growing as a Christian?

In what ways?

Growing as a Christian is not automatic! You'll need the right diet, and the right exercise program as well. It's nothing mysterious or fancy - just a commitment to working towards becoming more like Jesus.

Our church motto...

Our church motto is "Growing Followers of Jesus." It's a phrase that's meant to be taken two ways. It's about growing outward - larger as a church, as new Christians are added to our number - and UPWARD, as we each become more like Jesus Christ.

Get up and Grow!

Our church THEME for 2002 is GET UP AND GROW - it's a challenge to stretch and grow in your own Christian life.

Read Hebrews 5:11 to 6:12.

What is the problem with the "diet" of the Christians being spoken to?

How much have they grown as Christians? Why, or why not?

According to Heb 5:13-14, what teaching is missing in the "milk diet" Christians?

What is different about mature Christians?

What is involved in "maturity", according to chapter 5 verse 14?

So What's the Problem?

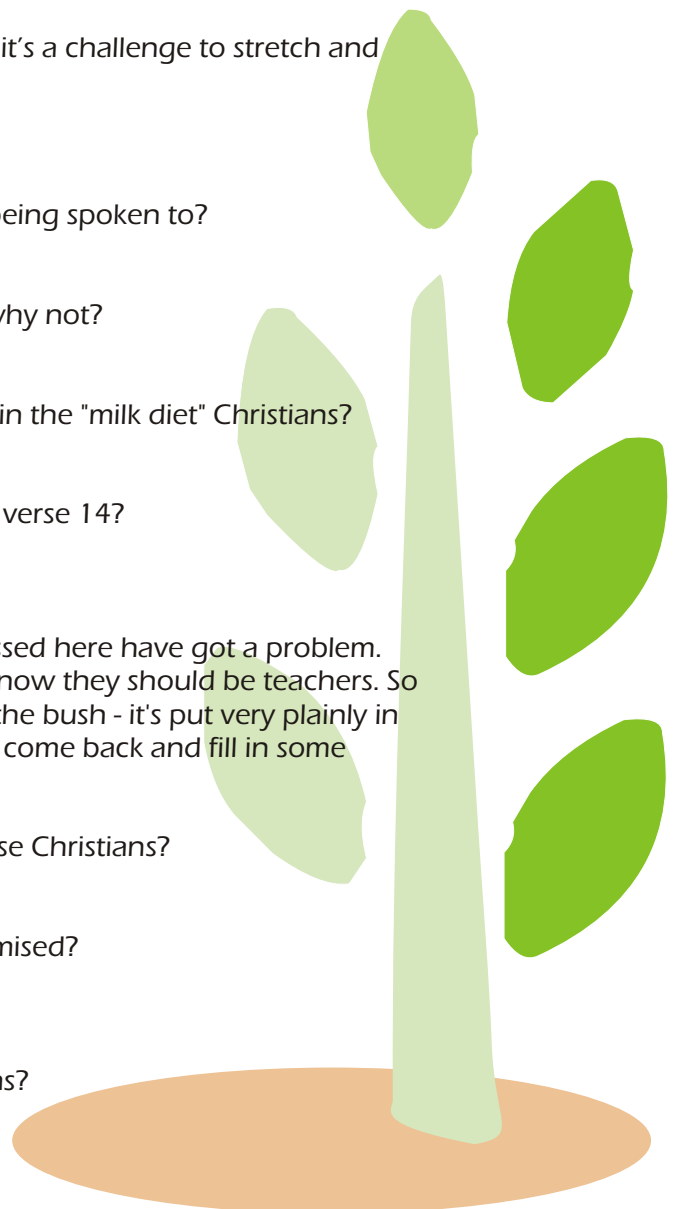
Clearly, the Hebrews (Jewish Christians) being addressed here have got a problem. They are spiritual midgets - baby Christians, when by now they should be teachers. So what's the fundamental issue? Let's not beat around the bush - it's put very plainly in Hebrews 6:12. So let's go right to the issue, and then come back and fill in some details.

According to 6v12, what's the biggest danger for these Christians?

What is the "recipe" for inheriting what has been promised?

Think about it...

What will Christian "laziness" look like in practical terms?



What will "faith and patience" look like in practical terms?

With this in mind, go back and re-read the first six verses of Hebrews 6.

It sounds at first as if there's a whole lot of "deeper knowledge" that these Christians need to KNOW. But is it a "knowledge problem" they're facing?

What exact "foundation" should they not need to lay again? (v1)

What is repeated "repentance" actually doing to Jesus? (v6)

The issue is, once you've understood the foundations of repentance, faith, baptism and the other things listed in verses 1 and 2, it's time to BUILD on them! Once the seeds are planted, it's time to GROW. The question is, what is going to grow in the life of those of us who have understood the gospel.

Read verses 7 and 8. If the "rain" is the good things described in verse 4 - the Holy Spirit, good teaching of God's word, and a "foretaste of heaven" - then what would a "useful crop" look like?

What would be meant by "land that produces thorns and thistles" (v8)

If a person has understood the gospel properly, they should be automatically committed to a life of growth. That's going to mean growing in RIGHTEOUSNESS, as well as in understanding. It's going to mean cultivating a good crop, rather than letting thorns and weeds grow rampant.

A Confident Finish...


There are certain things which should "accompany salvation" - and the writer is confident that his Christian friends will show them in their lives.

In what ways have they already shown their love for God? (v 10)

What do they need to keep doing?

GROWTH CHART

Growing as a Christian is about more than just "knowing." While there is more to learn than just "the basics," there's no point filling your head if you're not going to live it in your life. Loving God is going to be shown in loving and serving one another. It's going to be shown in righteous living. It's going to be shown in patience and perseverance. It's going to be shown in a real commitment to growth!

So are you going to "get up and grow" this year? Next Sunday, we'll be offering a list of challenges for your Christian growth. It's all about stretching a little - in your Christian living and your Christian thinking. If you'd like some extra "accountability," your  **growthgroup** leader will be your coach through the year.

Think it through...

What areas do you think you most need to be challenged in? Are you prepared to "get up and grow" this year?