

Kingdom Growth Derived from Handwritten Notes dated January 1987.

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## Kingdom Growth

1. Individual Growth - growing in maturity
2. Corporate Growth - growing together as a church
3. Numerical Growth - growing in numbers
4. Missionary Growth - Overflowing outwards

When 1 and 2 above are happening 3 and 4 will follow.

## What we Should Know About Growth

### **1 Corinthians 3 verse 1-9**

*And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to men of flesh, as to infants in Christ. 2 I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able to receive it. Indeed, even now you are not yet able, 3 for you are still fleshly. For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, and are you not walking like mere men? 4 For when one says, "I am of Paul," and another, "I am of Apollos," are you not mere men? 5 What then is Apollos? And what is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, even as the Lord gave opportunity to each one. 6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth. 7 So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth. 8 Now he who plants and he who waters are one; but each will receive his own reward according to his own labor. 9 For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building.*

### **Hebrews 6 verse 1-6**

*Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, 2 of instruction about washings and laying on of hands, and the resurrection of the dead and eternal judgment. 3 And this we will do, if God permits.*

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*4 For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit, 5 and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, 6 and then have fallen away, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance, since they again crucify to themselves the Son of God and put Him to open shame.*

Growth in God is by His grace

### **Mark 4 verse 26-29**

*The soil produces crops by itself; first the blade, then the head, then the mature grain in the head. 29 But when the crop permits, he immediately puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come."*

Growth in God is a time based process.

### **1 Thessalonians 5 verse 2**

*For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night.*

Growth in God affects the whole person.

### **John 15 verse 7-17**

*If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples. 9 Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love. 10 If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. 11 These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full. 12 "This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends. 14 You are My friends if you do what I command you. 15 No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you.*

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*16 You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you. 17 This I command you, that you love one another.*

Growth in God is conditional.

To please God we need to know 4 things.

1. Vision      who we are and where we are going
2. Strategy    knowing how we are growing
3. Faith        knowing how we are to persevere and to conquer
4. Ingredients for Kingdom Growth
  - a) Seed        God's word
  - b) Soil        Open hearts and minds
  - c) Water      Faith, which waters the words
  - d) Sun        The Fathers love, His warmth
  - e) Weeding    Removal of all our encumbrances

### **Luke 8 verse 4-15**

*When a large crowd was coming together, and those from the various cities were journeying to Him, He spoke by way of a parable: 5 "The sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell beside the road, and it was trampled under foot and the birds of the air ate it up. 6 Other seed fell on rocky soil, and as soon as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. 7 Other seed fell among the thorns; and the thorns grew up with it and choked it out. 8 Other seed fell into the good soil, and grew up, and produced a crop a hundred times as great." As He said these things, He would call out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear." 9 His disciples began questioning Him as to what this parable meant. 10 And He said, "To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest it is in parables, so that seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand. 11 "Now the parable is this: the seed is the word of God.*

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*12 Those beside the road are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their heart, so that they will not believe and be saved. 13 Those on the rocky soil are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no firm root; they believe for a while, and in time of temptation fall away. 14 The seed which fell among the thorns, these are the ones who have heard, and as they go on their way they are choked with worries and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to maturity. 15 But the seed in the good soil, these are the ones who have heard the word in an honest and good heart, and hold it fast, and bear fruit with perseverance.*

### **Our Only Source of Supply - The Word of God**

#### **What The Word of God is**

1. The written Word - The scriptures
2. The Spoken Word - Prophecy declared
3. The Living Word - Jesus Christ
4. The Word of revelation, what the Holy Spirit reveals to us. This comes from the gifts of the Spirit, visions, dreams, tongues and interpretation.

### **John 1 verse 1-5 and verse 14**

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. 4 In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. 5 The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.*

### **Hebrews 4 verse 12**

*For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.*

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### **Revelation 1 verse 1-3**

*The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants, the things which must soon take place; and He sent and communicated it by His angel to His bond-servant John, 2 who testified to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw. 3 Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near.*

### **Deuteronomy 8 verse 1-3**

*"All the commandments that I am commanding you today you shall be careful to do, that you may live and multiply, and go in and possess the land which the Lord swore to give to your forefathers. 2 You shall remember all the way which the Lord your God has led you in the wilderness these forty years, that He might humble you, testing you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not. 3 He humbled you and let you be hungry, and fed you with manna which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that He might make you understand that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the Lord..*

### **Philippians 2 verse 12-16**

*So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; 13 for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure. 14 Do all things without grumbling or disputing; 15 so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world, 16 holding fast the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I will have reason to glory because I did not run in vain nor toil in vain.*

If we are to live and to grow up we must feed on the written , the spoken, the living and the revelatory words of God.

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**What the Word of God Does**

### **Psalm 107 verse 20**

*He sent His word and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions.*

### **Psalm 119 verse 130**

*The unfolding of Your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.*

### **Jeremiah 15 verse 16**

*He sent His word and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions.*

### **John 8 verse 31-32**

*So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."*

### **John 20 verse 31-32**

*Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God ;and that believing you may have life in His name.*

### **Romans 10 verse 16-17**

*However, they did not all heed the good news; for Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our report?" 17 So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.*

### **2 Timothy 3 verse 16-17**

*All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; 17 so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.*

### **James 1 verse 18**

*In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth, so that we would be a kind of first fruits among His creatures.*

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### **Hebrews 11 verse 3**

*By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible.*

**God's Word Encourages**

### **Ephesians 3 verse 20-21**

*Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, 21 to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.*

### **Colossians 2 verse 6-7**

*Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, 7 having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude.*

### **Colossians 3 verse 1-2**

*Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.*

### **Proverbs 4 verse 20-23**

*My son, give attention to my words; incline your ear to my sayings. 21 Do not let them depart from your sight; keep them in the midst of your heart. 22 For they are life to those who find them and health to all their body. 23 Watch over your heart with all diligence, for from it flow the springs of life.*

### **Matthew 12 verse 34**

*You brood of vipers, how can you, being evil, speak what is good? For the mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart. 35 The good man brings out of his good treasure what is good; and the evil man brings out of his evil treasure what is evil.*

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## **Isaiah 26 verse 3-4**

*"The steadfast of mind You will keep in perfect peace, because he trusts in You. 4"Trust in the Lord forever, for in God the Lord, we have an everlasting Rock.*

**Strategy for Kingdom Growth**

## **Philippians 2 verse 1-11**

*Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, 2 make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. 3 Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; 4 do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. 5 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. 8 Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9 For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

Having a humble spirit.

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### **Proverbs 2 verse 1-4**

*My son, if you will receive my words and treasure my commandments within you, 2 Make your ear attentive to wisdom, incline your heart to understanding; 3 For if you cry for discernment, lift your voice for understanding; 4 If you seek her as silver and search for her as for hidden treasures; 5 Then you will discern the fear of the Lord and discover the knowledge of God.*

Having a seeking heart and mind.

### **John 15 verse 1-6**

*"I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. 2 Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit. 3 You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. 4 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me. 5 I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing. 6 If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire and they are burned.*

Having a radical attitude.

### **Proverbs 1 verse 5-6**

*A wise man will hear and increase in learning, and a man of understanding will acquire wise counsel, 6 To understand a proverb and a figure, the words of the wise and their riddles.*

### **Proverbs 2 verse 1-8**

*If My son, if you will receive my words and treasure my commandments within you, 2 Make your ear attentive to wisdom, incline your heart to understanding; 3 For if you cry for discernment, Lift your voice for understanding; 4 If you seek her as silver and search for her as for hidden treasures;*

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*5 Then you will discern the fear of the Lord And discover the knowledge of God. 6 For the Lord gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding. 7 He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; He is a shield to those who walk in integrity, 8 Guarding the paths of justice, And He preserves the way of His godly ones.*

Having a listening ear.

### **James 1 verse 19-20**

*This you know, my beloved brethren. But everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger; 20 for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God.*

### **Revelation 1 verse 1-3**

*The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants, the things which must soon take place; and He sent and communicated it by His angel to His bond-servant John, 2 who testified to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw. 3 Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near.*

Being a doer.

### **Matthew 25 verse 21**

*His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'*

Having faithfulness.

### **Genesis 17 verse 6**

*I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make nations of you, and kings will come forth from you.*

Being fruitful.

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### **Hindrances to Growth**

1. Sin of any kind, unbelief and apathy
2. Failure to take God seriously
3. Failure to take satan seriously
4. Holding on to fixed ideals or traditions
5. Failure to discern Christs body (the church), being an island
6. Over emphasis on career or hobby
7. Over emphasis on doctrine, extremisms
8. Under emphasis of Christs teachings, replacing them with man's ideas
9. Breakdown of relationships, marital or fellowship
10. Insubmissive attitude to leadership, home, church, work, world
11. Lack of joy, usually coming from a failure to appreciate what Jesus has done and will do
12. Leading in legalistic doctrine without a servant heart

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