"The following is a direct script of a teaching that is intended to be presented via video, incorporating relevant text, slides, media, and graphics to assist in illustration, thus facilitating the presentation of the material. In some places, this may cause the written material to not flow or sound rather awkward in some places. In addition, there may be grammatical errors that are often not acceptable in literary work. We encourage the viewing of the video teachings to complement the written teaching you see below."

Growth

1 Peter 2:2

Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may **grow** up in your salvation,

I remember being a young boy and going through the phases of wanting to see how tall I was. What boy didn't want to be taller than what he already was? Well, at least what short or average size boy like I was?

But that's really something that's in all children. Wanting to grow. Wanting to be taller than the rest.

Years ago, when we had our own house, we had a certain wall where we would mark the height of our children. It was so funny. There were times when they measured themselves with each other every day to see if they had grown. They were SO funny to watch.

Then they'd go a couple of months or so and not think about it. But the second that one of them did, all three of them would gather around that section of the wall in anticipation to see how much they had grown. It was always fun to see the smiles on their faces when they saw how much they had. Even in seeing how they were excited for one another.

One year our oldest daughter had grown over 6 inches. 6 inches in just one year. And it was just the other day that she stood up next to my wife and said "Daddy, come see how tall I am next to mom." I knew she had been growing again, but she is now only a quarter of an inch from being the same height. Needless to say our daughter was all smiles.

It was like she was SO close to reaching a goal that she had been waiting for all these years. And of course the other two wanted to know the height they were at, too, as well. It was so much fun to see their smiles in getting their news of how tall they were.

In fact, it was just the other night that our son came out of his room with his pajamas on. A pair of old ones. My wife and I just looked at each other and laughed. The bottom of his pant legs were at least three inches above his ankle. It was proof right in front of us that he had been growing.

In reflecting on it all, I started wondering about the believer's growth. Is it something we get excited about? Do we measure ourselves from where we were months ago or even a year or two before? And do we get excited for others in their growth?

Spiritual growth is something that should be happening in our lives every day. And in reality, just like we can see the physical growth in children, people should be able to notice our spiritual growth as well. At least to some degree.

I'm not talking about the knowledge that we may learn. But rather the application of that knowledge in our life. In how it makes us more like our heavenly Father. In how it helps us overcome ourselves so we can be more like Him.

Ask yourself the question, and be honest, "Have I grown in the last year?" How can you know if you've grown? Well, are you still struggling with some of the same temptations? Do you still struggle with the same attitudes? Do certain things make you respond the same way you would have a year before?

Just as a weightlifter will notice his abilities to handle heavier weight as he continues his routine over weeks and even months, likewise, we should notice our spiritual growth as well. It won't come overnight. But it should still come. And hopefully others will see it.

And sometimes it's hard to monitor our growth because we aren't really thinking about where we were last year or the year before that. But, if like children, we can put markers for ourselves somewhere, we can begin monitoring our growth. And even get excited about our growth.

Physical growth to a child happens without effort but they can still have the growing pains. And likewise, our spiritual growth will come with pains just the same. It's the process of putting our old self to the side so the Spirit can truly work within us.

Pain is never fun, but it has its purpose. Just as the grass of the fields needs the rain and the sun to grow, so we should grow in the good times and the bad. The hard times helps us to cherish the good times and to remind us of where our strength truly comes from.

You may have been in the faith for a long time, but please don't stop growing. Never let your zeal for growing in the Father ever stop. Never let your excitement of His word ever fade. Always look to see where the Spirit is working in your life for you to grow. Get excited about it like children longing to see how much they have grown. Watch and listen to him as He speaks.

1 Peter 2:2

> Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may **grow** up in your salvation,

We hope you have enjoyed this brief message. Remember, continue to test everything.

Shalom!

For more on this and other teachings, please visit us at www.testeverything.net

Shalom, and may Yahweh bless you in walking in the whole Word of God.

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