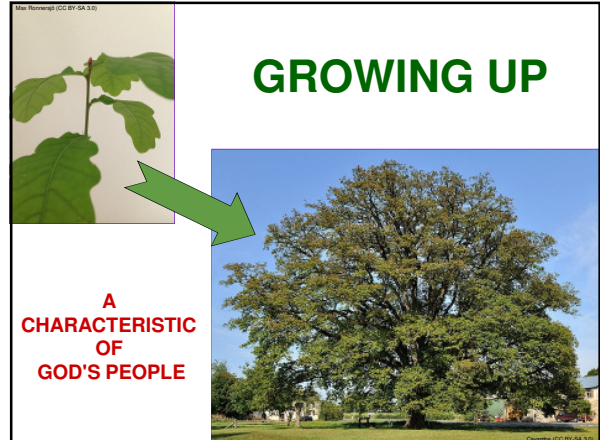


## Assurance of Salvation Part 111

### GROWING IN GRACE – The Concept of Growth



**GROWING UP**

A  
CHARACTERISTIC  
OF  
GOD'S PEOPLE

**GOD'S PEOPLE** are characterized by what they don't do... and by what they do.

Blessed is the person  
who does not follow  
the advice of the  
wicked,  
or choose the way of  
sinners,  
or associate with  
those who mock, ...  
Psalm 1:1 (DHT)

but who instead delights in  
the teachings of the Lord,  
and thinks about those  
teachings day and night.  
Psalm 1:2 (DHT)

This results in **GROWTH**

– Like fruitful trees.

He is like a tree planted by  
streams of water  
– a tree that produces fruit in  
its season,  
and whose leaves do not  
wither.  
Everything he does prospers.  
Psalm 1:3 (DHT)

(in contrast) The **WICKED** are like chaff –  
empty grain husks.

DO THEY HAVE  
FRUITFUL LIVES?

THEY'RE  
EMPTY!

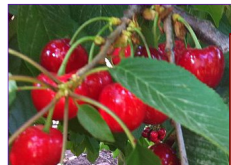
**Not so for the wicked!**

They are like empty grain husks  
that the wind blows away.  
Psalm 1:4 (DHT)

**"WICKED"** = Anyone  
who does not delight in  
God and his Word (even if they are church-goers).

There are consequences for both.

So **the wicked** will not be left  
standing at the judgment.  
Sinners will not be left standing  
with the righteous people.  
Psalm 1:5 (DHT)



For the Lord watches over the  
way of **righteous people**,  
but the way of the wicked  
leads to destruction.  
Psalm 1:5-6 (DHT)

## GROWTH – It is a characteristic of God's people!

Righteous people flourish like palm trees ...



... and grow tall like the cedars in Lebanon.

Psalm 92:12 (GW)



## It's not a characteristic of the wicked.

... autumn trees, without fruit and uprooted--twice dead.

Jude 1:12b (NIV)



... such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned.

John 15:6b (NIV)

## GROWTH ...

✓ It's a **COMMAND**.

But **grow** in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

2 Peter 3:18a (ESV)

✓ It's a **FACT** for God's people.  
(The fakes won't do it.)

... your faith is **growing** all the time and the love every one of you has for each other is increasing.

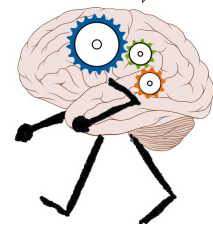
2 Thes. 1:3b (ISV)

## TWO THINGS

we know  
about this  
GROWTH



I ... AM ...  
FILLED ... WITH ...  
KNOWLEDGE!!



## 1 WE KNOW... 1

There is a "human responsibility"  
aspect to our growth.

- We must hunger after God's Word so that we can grow.

Desire God's pure word as newborn babies desire milk. Then you will **grow** in your salvation.

1 Peter 2:2 (GW)

- Growth must be our goal.

- **RESULTS?**  
Instead of going after the ways of the world, ...

... we will in all things **grow** up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, **grows** and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

Ephes. 4:15b-16 (NIV)

- We must pray that we will all reach this goal.
- The **GOAL** of this prayer is...

... that you may live worthily of the Lord and please him in all respects—bearing fruit in every good deed, **growing** in the knowledge of God, ...

Col. 1:10b (NET)

**God's people are willing to do things that enable growth.**

**2 WE ALSO KNOW... 2**

**GOD makes our growth possible.**

We admit the human role.

I [Paul] planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow.

We also admit God's role.

1 Cor. 3:6-7 (NIV)

- Our growth in the "body of Christ" is because of God.

... the whole body, supported and knit together through its ligaments and sinews, **grows** with a **growth** that is from God.

Col. 2:19b (NET)

**God's people give God credit for the growth that has occurred.**

**In the coming weeks...**

**We will be looking at a very important aspect of growth...**

**GROWTH THAT IS EVIDENCE OF SALVATION.**



**Our mission: Focus on GROWTH**

**Our responsibility:**

- **Working** for growth (doing what is necessary).
- **Praying** for growth (including other's growth).

**Our awareness:**

- God has made growth possible.
- God deserves all the credit:
  - For our willingness to grow.
  - For our success in growing.

## Credits (1)

### SCRIPTURE

- Scriptures marked "NIV" - Scripture quoted from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved. (www.zondervanbibles.com)
- Scriptures marked "GW" - Scripture is taken from GOD'S WORD®. Copyright 1995 God's Word to the Nations. Used by permission of Baker Publishing Group. All rights reserved.
- Scriptures marked "ESV" - Scripture quotation from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. (www.gnpb.org)
- Scriptures marked "NET" - Scripture quoted by permission. Quotations designated (NET) are from the NET Bible® copyright ©1996-2006 by Biblical Studies Press, L.L.C. <http://netbible.com> All rights reserved.
- Scriptures marked "ISV" - Scripture taken from the Holy Bible: International Standard Version®, Copyright © 1996-forever by The ISV Foundation. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED INTERNATIONALLY. Used by permission. (<https://www.isv.org/bible>)
- Scriptures marked "DHT" - My translation.

### PICTURES (original sources; modifications may have been made)

- Oak sprout - By Max Rønningsø (Own work) [CC-BY-SA 3.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>)] via Wikimedia Commons [http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Oak\\_sprout.jpg](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Oak_sprout.jpg)
- Oak tree - By Cayambe (Own work) [CC-BY-SA 3.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>)] via Wikimedia Commons [http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Remigabaz\\_oak\\_Saoul\\_01.jpg](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Remigabaz_oak_Saoul_01.jpg)

## Credits (2)

### PICTURES (original sources; modifications may have been made)

- Cherries on branch - By wuxok nuy (Own work) [CC BY-SA 3.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>)] via Wikimedia Commons; <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:%D7%A9%D7%9C%D7%97%D7%A9%D7%94%D7%A5%D7%A7%D7%9B%D7%A4%D7%A4%D7%A4%D7%9C%D7%94%D7%A2%D7%A5.jpg> (cropped)
- Apples on branch - Photograph by Mike Peel (www.mikepeel.net) [CC BY-SA 4.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/>)] via Wikimedia Commons; [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Worship\\_House\\_2015\\_59.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Worship_House_2015_59.jpg)
- Grain husks - By Green (based on copyright claims) [CC-BY-SA 3.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>)] via Wikimedia Commons; [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Rice\\_chaffs.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Rice_chaffs.jpg)
- Palm tree - By Marcus Guignire from Florida, USA (Blowing in the wind. Uploaded by Princess Mérida) [CC BY-SA 2.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/>)] via Wikimedia Commons; [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Blowing\\_in\\_the\\_wind\\_1301635559.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Blowing_in_the_wind_1301635559.jpg)
- Cedar tree - By Rosser1954 Roger Griffith (Own work) [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons; [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Cedar\\_of Lebanon\\_at\\_Sajer%27s.JPG](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Cedar_of Lebanon_at_Sajer%27s.JPG)
- Fallen-over tree - By Th. Voelker (Own work) [CC BY-SA 3.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>)] via Wikimedia Commons; [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Pinus\\_juvencis.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Pinus_juvencis.jpg)
- "Walking brain" - Brain: By Patrick J. Lynch, medical illustrator (Patrick J. Lynch, medical illustrator) [CC-BY-2.5 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.5/>)] via Wikimedia Commons [http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Brain\\_human\\_lateral\\_view.jpg](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Brain_human_lateral_view.jpg); Gears: By Web2Grrl (Own work) [CC-BY-SA 3.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>)] via Wikimedia Commons [http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Gears\\_wol\\_Buff.jpg](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Gears_wol_Buff.jpg) (both combined + additional drawing)

## Credits (3)

### PICTURES (original sources; modifications may have been made)

- Numbers 1 & 2 (in hexagons) - By Hayko (Own work) [CC BY-SA 4.0-3.0-2.5-2.0-1.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0-3.0-2.5-2.0-1.0/>)] via Wikimedia Commons; <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:ATCantMS.png>; <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:L20.png> (color modified)
- "Growth" arrow - Public domain at opencipart.org; uploaded by vijayarajesh; <https://opencipart.org/detail/172747/growth-chart> (modified)
- Growth chart - Public domain at opencipart.org; uploaded by simpletutorials.net; <https://opencipart.org/detail/186811/profit-chart-curve>
- Backgrounds (not a solid shade or provided as part of Microsoft PowerPoint®) - Dennis Hinks © 2013-2015.
- Presentation - Dennis Hinks © 2015.
- DISCLAIMER: The use of a picture does not imply that the author of that picture agrees with the views of this presentation. Some might agree; some might not.