

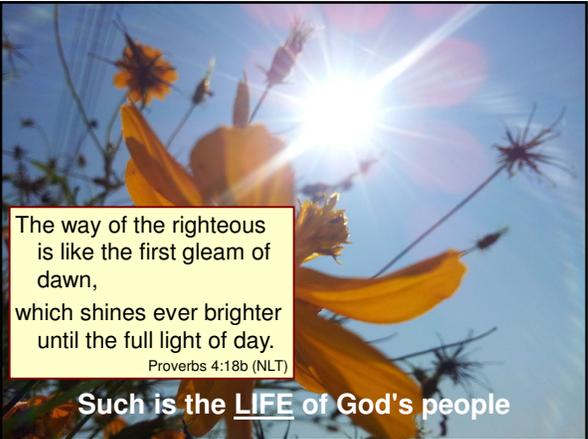
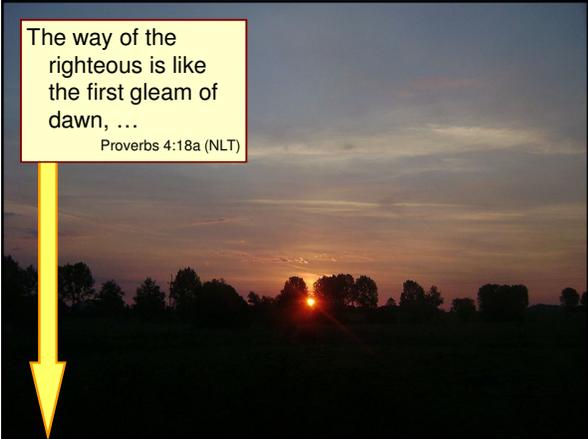
Assurance of Salvation
Part 112

GROWING IN GRACE
– The Path of the Righteous

What does it mean to:
"Grow in Grace"?

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.
2 Peter 3:18 (WEB)

The following pictures illustrate it.



God's people ...

Characterized by the word:



"LIFE"

(a LIFE that comes from GOD)

But just like the weather,
there can be "stormy" days.

- We are imperfect; we experience trials; we often grow at a slower rate than we would like.
- We may describe our struggles like this:

THE WAY THE APOSTLE PAUL OFTEN FELT:

Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?

Romans 7:24 (NET)

BUT GOD'S PEOPLE DON'T
STOP HERE AND SURRENDER!

→ INSTEAD...

→ They answer this question with hope...

A HOPE based on CERTAINTY!

Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Romans 7:25a (NET)

- It's **CERTAIN** (and the end result is guaranteed) **because GOD is at work in us!**

... God, who began this good work in you, will carry it through to completion on the day of Christ Jesus.

Philip. 1:6 (GW)

God's people ...

Characterized by the word:



"HOPE"

(HOPE that comes from GOD)

And so, we can have "forward-focused" lives, regardless of past or present trials.

... I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Philip. 3:12, 14 (NIV)



BEGINNING ...



TRIALS / IMPERFECTIONS ...



COMPLETION

God's people ...

ALSO
Characterized by the word:



"GROWTH"

(GROWTH in spite of the difficulties, struggles and trials)

Their lives in Christ are characterized by progress and growth....

★ God guarantees this growth will occur.

- Whether fast or slow.
- In spite of trials and imperfections.



THEREFORE:

When this growth occurs, it is evidence – proof – of salvation!

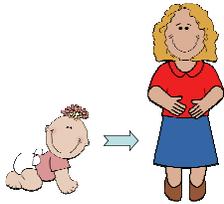
THE ISSUE is not the SPEED of growth, but the PRESENCE of growth. (It will be there.)



Scripture describes this process of growth in many ways.

Below are some examples.

A transition from infancy to maturity.



... until we all ... become mature, ...
Then we will no longer be infants, ...

Ephes. 4:13b, 14a (NIV)

The transition from seed to harvest.

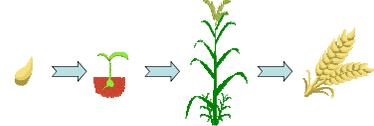
"The kingdom of God is like someone who spreads seed on the ground.

... the seed sprouts and grows, ... produces a crop, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head.

And when the grain is ripe, [the man] sends in the sickle because the harvest has come."

Mark 4:26-29 (NET)

* (Growth in us is just one of several aspects of the concept "Kingdom of God.")



The effects of Jesus' "living water."

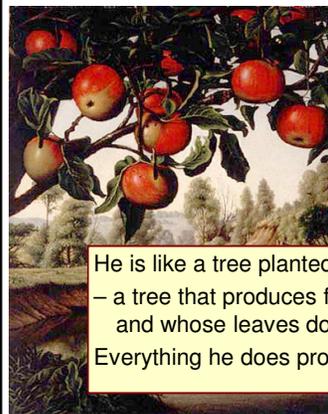


But whoever drinks from the water that I will give him will never get thirsty again—ever!

In fact, the water I will give him will become a well of water springing up within him for eternal life.

John 4:14 (HCSB)

A fruitful tree



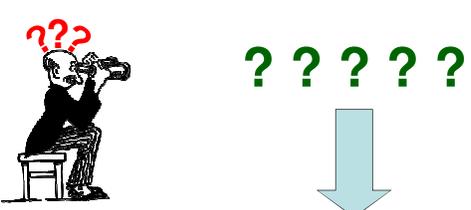
He is like a tree planted by streams of water – a tree that produces fruit in its season, and whose leaves do not wither. Everything he does prospers.

Psalms 1:3 (DHT)



ALL OF THIS IS POSSIBLE ...

BECAUSE OF...



BECAUSE OF...

The people's God ...

Characterized by the word:



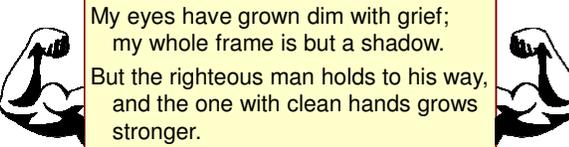
"EMPOWERING"

(EMPOWERING US to have this life and growth)

Because of God's work in us, trials will not destroy us.

(though they may hurt us for a while)

Growing stronger during trials



My eyes have grown dim with grief; my whole frame is but a shadow. But the righteous man holds to his way, and the one with clean hands grows stronger.

Job 17:7, 9 (NET)

Renewed strength when weary

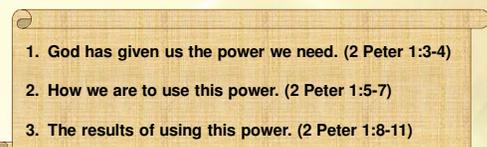


Even youths get tired and weary; even strong young men clumsily stumble. But those who wait for the LORD's help find renewed strength; they rise up as if they had eagles' wings, they run without growing weary, they walk without getting tired.

Isaiah 40:30-31 (NET)

Your mission: **GROW!**

- **Do you want to "grow in grace"?**
 - We will be looking at various issues related to this growth.
 - But for now, focus on some of the attitudes and actions mentioned in 2 Peter 1!



1. God has given us the power we need. (2 Peter 1:3-4)
2. How we are to use this power. (2 Peter 1:5-7)
3. The results of using this power. (2 Peter 1:8-11)

Credits (1)

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