

11. Growing in Christ

By His death on the Cross, Jesus triumphed over the forces of evil (Colossians 2:15). Without His sacrificial death, Satan and his demonic forces would not have been defeated, the problem of sin would not have been solved, death would not have been conquered, and the redemption of human beings from sin would not have been possible. Through His victory over sin and Satan on the Cross, Jesus made it possible for human beings to be saved and reconciled to God. It is this reconciliation that has made us God's children. Being children, we have become inheritors of new life, and we are called to grow into maturity in Christ. As we grow in Christ, evil no longer enslaves us: Satan may tempt us to do evil, but the experience of growing in Christ ensures us to also experience the victory Christ obtained over Satan on the Cross. Hence, we are admonished to crucify self daily (Romans 6:6-11) and experience the joy of growing new every day in Christ (Galatians 2:20,21).

Through His life, death and resurrection, Christ triumphed over Satan and his evil forces. Because of this the demonic forces have no hold on us who have accepted Christ.

- Throughout His life and ministry on earth, Jesus remained absolutely loyal to His Father, and overcame every attack of Satan in His life. Matthew 4:1-11; Hebrews 4:15.
- Through His death on the Cross, Jesus defeated Satan and his demonic forces and made them a cosmic spectacle of shame and defeat. Evil no longer holds power over those in Christ. Colossians 1:13, 14; 2:15; John 12:31.
- Through His resurrection, Christ triumphed over death, and because of this we need not have any fear over death, and indeed anticipate our own resurrection unto eternal life. Romans 6:4, I Corinthians 15:14-17.

By accepting what Christ has done for us on the Cross, we become a new creation.

- Our sins are forgiven and we are reconciled to God. Ephesians 1: 7; 2 Corinthians 5:19.
- Our old life dies, and a new life of righteousness begins. 2 Corinthians 5:17; Romans 6:6-11; Galatians 2:20,21.
- The new life is one of freedom from sin, fear, demonic possession. Romans 8: 1; 8:15; Mark 16:17.

Personal Application

A born-again Christian is a growing Christian—growing in Christ to full maturity. How do I measure up to some of the biblical marks of spiritual growth in Christ?

- As a person saved from sin, how do I reflect my growth in the Spirit? John 3:5; Romans 8:14; Galatians 5:19-23.
- Christian love and unity are essential marks of growing in Christ. How do I reveal this in my daily life? John 17:20,21; Ephesians 2:11-16. .
- What is the role of Bible study, prayer and service in Christian growth, and what changes am I ready to make in my life to accommodate these essentials? Matthew 4:4; Psalm 119: 12; 2 Timothy 3:16, 17; Ephesians 6:18; Matthew 20:25-28.
- Can I grow in Christ without bearing fruits of righteousness? How is fruit bearing linked to spiritual maturity? Matthew 7:20; James 2:17; John 15:4.
- Christian growth is a series of daily battles. What should I do in order to be a victorious Christian? Ephesians 6:12, 13; 1 Corinthians 15:57.

Commitment

- Thank you, Lord, for saving me from sin and the snares of Satan. Thank you for making me a new person in and through Jesus. With the power of your grace, I will make Jesus the centre of my life in order that I may grow to be like Him.