

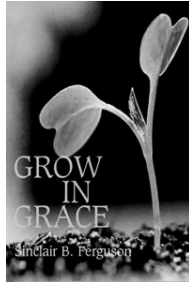
Take and Read

From Our Library

Becoming a Christian is only the beginning of a process of spiritual growth that involves increasing in knowledge of God, obedience to his word and understanding of his will.

Yet, some Christians' lives seem to grind slowly to a halt while others are disappointed because of their spiritual progress has not been as straightforward or as rapid as they had hoped. The growth of others is stunted by a lack of proper spiritual nourishment.

Yet others feel they do not understand how to become mature Christians. *Grow in Grace* explains how God helps us to develop as members of his family. Taking Jesus himself as the model for our growth, it explains some of the biblical principles of spiritual development, and gives a number of 'case histories' to illustrate how God works in our lives to mature us as Christians.



The biblical teaching in *Grow in Grace* will appeal to Christians at all stages, while its straightforward explanation of the patterns of God's work in his people makes it ideal for those who are just beginning.

Review

New believers and their teachers need to own and use this book in their class in which Dr. Ferguson not only teaches what and how to grow in grace, but he actually teaches with grace as well. - **A. Sutono**

Quote of the Month

"He who pampers his body and neglects his soul is like one who feasts his slave and starves his wife."
(Ephrem the Syrian)

Calendar of Events

February 2009

- Sunday's Church Services — 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd
- Tuesday's Women's meeting — 10th, 24th
- Wednesday's Church Bible Study — 4th, 18th, 25th
- Thursday's Prayer Meeting — 5th, 19th
- Experience Meeting — 11th



"More Than Conquerors"

Issue 6

February 2009

"...in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us" - Romans 8:37.

The Pastor's Letter

Dear Brethren,

The way forward for us as a congregation is not ambiguous. The Lord has clearly shown us where he has made us strong, that is, in sound doctrine and in the unity of the Spirit. For this we are full of praise and gratitude.

Our challenges lie elsewhere, though much related to what we have already received. First, in drawing closer to God in *prayer*, especially private prayer in all its aspects. It is amazing how we can be caught up in the whirlwind of our culture and forget or neglect to enjoy our Triune God, who loves us with an infinite and eternal love.

Secondly, in increasing in *love* towards all, especially those of the household of faith. God himself teaches us how to love, and empowers us to walk in his ways, expressing mercy, compassion and fidelity to each other, since we are partakers of the same covenant through Jesus Christ. But we must take care not to receive God's grace in vain.

We realize that this leniency on our part is due to a relative lack of sanctification of our life to our Saviour. We need to learn to restructure our days, making the most out of our time, and keeping our priorities in the light of Christ's lordship over us, his disciples. Unless we, as God's saints, are distinctively different from those without Christ, our salt is in danger of losing its saltiness.

It is very encouraging, though, to know that as one body of believers, we are ready, by God's grace, to be obedient to the vision set before us, to record new successes, to enjoy the victory of Christ's resurrection, and thus bring honour to the Father.

Maranatha

Paul

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New Activity

Every 2nd Wednesday of the month.

'Experience Meeting'

Share your blessings and burdens
Wed. 11th at 7.30pm

Catechism Corner

Question 25 How does Christ execute the office of a king?

Christ executes the office of a king in subduing us to himself, (Psalms 110:3) in ruling and defending us, (Matthew 2:6; 1 Corinthians 15:25) and in restraining and conquering all his and our enemies.

Question 26 Wherein did Christ's humiliation consist?

Christ's humiliation consisted in his being born, and that in a low condition, (Luke 2:7) made under the law, (Galatians 4:4) undergoing the miseries of this life, the wrath of God, (Matthew 27:46) and the cursed death of the cross; (Philippians 2:8) in being buried, and continuing under the power of death for a time. (Matthew 12:40)

Question 27 Wherein consists Christ's exaltation?

Christ's exaltation consists in his rising again from the dead on the third day, (1 Corinthians 15:4) in ascending up into heaven, and sitting at the right hand of God the Father, (Mark 16:19) and in coming to judge the world at the last day. (Acts 17:31)

Question 28 How are we made partakers of the redemption purchased by Christ?

We are made partakers of the redemption purchased by Christ, by the effectual application of it to us (John 1:12) by his Holy Spirit. (Titus 3:5,6)

Question 29 How does the Spirit apply to us the redemption purchased by Christ?

The Spirit applies to us the redemption purchased by Christ, by working faith in us, (Ephesians 2:8) and by it uniting us to Christ in our effectual calling. (Ephesians 3:17)

Remember and Learn

REMEMBER Eleazar (2 Sam. 23:8-10) one of David's three mighty men; and how he fought against the enemy; all alone and until the sword dug in his hand and it became stuck to it, **and LEARN** to show the same courage and perseverance in your lifelong struggle against all your indwelling sins.



Sayings of: J. C. Ryle (1816-1900)

- “ True Christianity is not only believing a certain set of dry abstract propositions, it is to live in daily personal communion with an actual living person – Jesus the Son of God.”
- “Your understanding of some part of Scripture is wrong if it goes against (or contradicts) another portion of it.”
- “Your love of evangelical religion may be warm, but still this may be nothing more than head knowledge and party spirit. The great point is this; whether you can speak **to** and **with** God as well as speak **about** God.”
- “Do we wish to grow in grace and be very holy Christians? Then let us never forget the value of prayer.”



Experimental Christianity

The Things That Discourage Your Pastor.*

(*By pastor we also mean any man or woman responsible for a group of Christians)

Pastors, like all of us, face discouragement over many things; children whose lives are not going well, marriage, strained relationships, finances etc. Above all this they have to deal with ‘ministry related’ discouragements caused by the people they love and serve. We have asked a number of pastors to share with us ‘straight from their heart’ those things that REALLY discourage them. We have used their very own words and put all their answers together in ‘letter form’; without adding any comments, but editing slightly some points due to lack of space.

We strongly recommend that you prayerfully read each and every point slowly, pausing to think on each point to make sure you understand what is being said, while humbly asking yourself, “Does this refer to me? Am I guilty of this, do I do this?”

Beloved Brethren,

What really discourages me in my ministry among you is when people nod and show agreement to the sermons and Bible studies, attending all church services but never put the Word of God in practice. Ezk. 33:32 & 2 Tim 3:7 says it all. Related to this, is the concept of sanctification. People who remain living and acting, (clothing - women in particular) as if they were never born again. Sin taken lightly and excused. Sanctification is only a theological term and not a life style. Absenteeism from regular worship services without good reason. People who come to a meeting late, unprepared, tired, ready for a sleep, not properly dressed, sitting at the back while all the front seats are empty. Mobile phones ringing and adults talking during the sermon. Poor devotional attitude in the worship of God. Superficiality. A critical attitude, nit-picking everything that is said. A censorious spirit. People who consider themselves perfect - hence feeling no need for any corrective action. People who always remark on everything! The All-knowing, but who never listen to anything. Unresponsiveness of church members, people hearing but not listening. Dead orthodoxy (knowledge without love). People who never commit themselves to any church work, leaving only a handful to volunteer. Unmotivated brethren who are not exercising any spiritual gift / ministry. Those who, to avoid doing something themselves, put the pastor on a pedestal saying that no one can do the work better than himself. Lack of cooperation. An attitude of knowing more than the pastor; ex. in areas of discipline and ‘church government’ (decision making). People who are not in touch neither with themselves nor with reality. A formal show of love. Conflicts, divisions and ‘doctrinal’ arguments between members. Christians who have time to do everything they please except time to read the Bible, pray, and attend church services. Lack of discipline in one’s walk with the Lord; hardly any prayer, Scripture reading in private. ‘Fossilized’ individuals. Years have gone by and they are still ‘Babes’. No real change or progress towards the ‘mature man’ (cf Eph 4).

Surely, most pastors know that discouragements are part of their calling, and have learnt to deal with them by the grace and mercy of God. These servants of God, and the families that support them, are to be commended for all their years of faithful service. **Do not take the above ‘letter’ lightly but take it very seriously and to heart.** Refer to it regularly. Then, the least you can do is to make sure that you will never be a cause of discouragement to your pastor.