

Christian Growth

Introduction

1. The normal human growth cycle.
2. God wants all Christians to grow up (1 Cor. 3:1-3 *cf.* 16:13).
3. Why do we sometimes fail to grow spiritually? Why are there different levels of spiritual maturity?

The Christian's higher order of life—the battle in our mind.

- A.** There are two levels of life: physical and spiritual (1 Tim. 5:6).
- a) We were bought with a price (1 Cor. 6:20).
 - b) We were bought not to be slaves of mankind (1 Cor. 7:23).
 - c) We were bought with precious blood of Christ (1 Pet. 1:18-19).
- B.** There are two spiritual families.
- a) The family of Satan (1 Jn. 3:8; Jn. 8:44).
 - b) The family of God (1 Jn. 3:9-10).
 - i. God the Father supplies the metaphoric sperm ♂ (1 Jn. 3:9).
 - ii. The Gospel for salvation is the metaphoric womb; the place where the seed is sown ♀ (1 Pet. 1:23, 25).
 - iii. The result is a new birth—noun (Tit. 3:5).
 - iv. We receive our new birth for many reasons—verb (1 Pet. 1:3, 23).
- C.** We are what we are thinking: at that moment (Prov. 23:7).
- a) A Christian has two minds (Rom. 8:5-6; Gal. 5:16).
 - b) A Christian still has a sin nature (1 Jn. 1: 8 & 10).
- D.** Terms used in the New Testament for the sin nature:
- a) The flesh (Rom. 7:18).
 - b) The specific sin entity (Rom. 7:20).
 - c) The sin principle (Rom. 7:23).
 - d) A nature in opposition to God (Eph. 2:3).
- E.** All three spiritual enemies put thoughts in our mind.
- a) Strong desires come from the flesh (1 Jn. 2:16).
 - b) Strong desires come from Satan (2 Cor. 2:11; Eph. 6:11-12).
 - c) Strong desires come from the world system (Tit. 2:12; 1 Jn. 2:17).
- F.** God the Father knows our limitations (1 Cor. 10:13).
- G.** God the Son co-suffers with our weaknesses (Heb. 4:15).
- H.** God the Holy Spirit provides guidelines (Eph. 4:30).