



# Kingdom

*Growth and Conflict*



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# Kingdom Growth and Conflict

## GROWTH

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. 2 Peter 3:18.

When we study the teachings of Jesus and the apostles we find many references to growth, this is not in order to obtain salvation BUT is our response to all the Jesus has done for us and provided for us as we learn to work out our salvation. Below are some examples.

- ❖ Build yourself up in your most holy faith. Jude: 20.
- ❖ Make every effort to add to your faith. 2 Peter 1:5
- ❖ Continue to work out your salvation. Philippians 2:12/13.
- ❖ Devoted themselves to the apostles teaching, fellowship, communion and prayer. Acts 2:42
- ❖ Equipped, built up, unity in faith, fullness of Christ, maturity, grows. Ephesians 4:11-16
- ❖ Do your best to present yourself to God as one who is approved and correctly handles the Word of God. 2 Timothy 2:15
- ❖ Hold firmly to the Word. 1 Corinthians 15:2
- ❖ Faithfulness Hebrews 3:5/6.
- ❖ Always give yourself to the work of the Lord. 1 Corinthians 15:58
- ❖ Stand firm, let nothing move you. 1 Corinthians 15:58

To cover all the areas mentioned in the above list would make a book, so I have decided to take just four areas of growth that will give us a good foundation to build on.

- ❖ Grow in our knowledge of Jesus Christ especially what He is doing now and who we are in Him.
- ❖ Develop lifestyle of dependency on the Holy Spirit
- ❖ Grow in grace so that it impacts those around us.
- ❖ Develop a lifestyle of faith that impacts our world.

## JESUS CHRIST

### **What others said about Jesus Christ in John's gospel**

- John the Baptist: Lamb of God, Baptiser in Holy Spirit. 1:29-34.
- Nathaniel: Son of God, Holy one of Israel 1:47-51
- Peter: Holy one of God 6:66-69
- Martha: The Christ, The Son of God 11:21-27
- Thomas: My Lord, My God 20:24-29
- John (the author of the book): The Christ The Son of God 20:30/32
- Jesus (to Pilate): I am a King; my kingdom is not of this world 18:33-40

## **What Jesus did**

In all of the gospels there are records of all Jesus did and taught – in John's gospel there is only recorded 7 miracles (or signs) – all remarkable and giving clear signs of his divinity (John 3:2, 20:30-31)

- Turning water into wine John 2:1-11
- Healing nobleman's son John 4:43-54
- Healing man at pool (sick for 38 years) John 5:1-15
- Feeding 5000 with 5 loaves and 2 fish John 6:1-14
- Walking on water John 6:16-21
- Giving sight to man blind from birth John 9:1-41
- Raising Lazarus from the dead John 11:1-44

## **Description of the King**

- Jesus is the Christ Acts 2:36
- Jesus is the Son of the Living God Matthew 16:16, 17:5
- Jesus Christ is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world John 1:29
- Jesus Christ Baptises us with the Holy Spirit, Power and Fire Matthew 3:11-12
- Jesus Christ is the Source of Faith Hebrews 12:2
- Jesus Christ is the Head of the Church Ephesians 2:19-23
- Jesus Christ is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords Revelation 19:16.

## **Resurrected and Glorified Christ**

- Appeared in heaven once to take away sin by sacrifice of Himself. He will appear a second time to bring salvation to those who are waiting for Him. Hebrews 9:24-28
- God exalted Him to the highest place and has been given the name that is above every name Philippians 2:9-11
- He has been given all authority in heaven and on earth Matthew 28:18
- Christ has been seated in the heavenly realms and we are also with Him Ephesians 2:4-7.
- Opened up the way for us to come to the Father Ephesians 2:18
- Interceding for us Hebrews 7:23-25. Romans 8:34.
- Seated in heaven, waiting for His enemies to be made His footstool. Hebrews 10:11-14.

## **In Christ and Christ in us**

From Romans to Revelation there are over 250 references to who we are "In Christ" and who "Christ is in us" Read your Bible to find them and then pray them in and speak them over yourself they are life changing.

## **GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT**

His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. 2 Peter 1:3

The key to moving in and receiving from the Holy Spirit is relational (2 Corinthians 13:14).

It is important to have a clear biblical base for our experience with the Holy Spirit

### **WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?**

The Holy Spirit is the divine power of God – God cannot be God without revealing and releasing His divine power.

The Holy Spirit is equal with God the Father and God the Son.

Scripture clearly teaches their equality and also shows their different functions and personalities

- all were involved in creation (Genesis 1:1-2 and John 1:1-3)
- all were involved in our salvation (John 3:16, Hebrews 9:14)
- all are involved in our being saved (2 Thessalonians 2:13)
- all will be involved in our eternal salvation (2 Corinthians 1:21-22, 5:1-10)

The following scriptures help us understand more clearly who He is.

1. The presence of God (Psalm 51:11, 1 Corinthians 3:16-17)

2. The power of God (Acts 1:8, Luke 24:49)

3. To be respected by all (Matthew 12:22-32, Mark 3:28-29)

4. He was and is involved in our salvation (Hebrews 9:14)

5. He is the hallmark of the local Church (Ephesians 2:20-22)

It is important that all believers understand and co-operate with the Holy Spirit's ministry.

### **THE HOLY SPIRIT'S MINISTRY**

Convicts John 16:1, 7-11

Regenerates John 3:3, 5

Sanctifies Romans 15:16

Anoints 1 John 2:20, 27

Empowers Acts 1:8

Guides John 16:13

Comforts John 14:16-26

Gives gifts 1 Corinthians 12:3-11

Produces fruit Galatians 5:22-23

Teaches John 14:26

Testifies of Christ John 15:26

Transforms 2 Corinthians 3:18

Administers our inheritance Galatians 3:6-14

### **GRACE**

For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ. Romans 5:17

GRACE. God has made available to us all the blessings, resources and favour of Heaven that by rights are Christ's but now are freely available to anyone who repents of their sin and puts their faith in Christ and his atoning death – it is the unmerited favour of God.

As we study our bible we will discover the scope of:

### **God's amazing grace**

God is the source of grace Ephesians 1:2

Christ is the source of grace Revelation 1:4

The Holy Spirit is the source of grace Hebrews 10:29

God's throne is set in grace Hebrews 4:16

Grace and truth came through Jesus Christ John 1:17

Through grace Christ tasted death for us Hebrews 2:9

Our salvation is dependent on grace Ephesians 2:5 & 8

Forgiveness of sins is only by grace

As Christians we stand by grace Romans 5:2

We need to grow in grace and the knowledge of Jesus Christ 2 Peter 3:18

Grace is available to the humble James 4:6

Abundant grace is available 2 Corinthians 9:8

Grace releases us from the law as it is by faith Romans 4:13-17

Grace is superior to the law and works Romans 11:6

Grace is greater than sin Romans 6:1

Grace reigns through righteousness to bring eternal life Romans 5:21

Grace releases different gifts to the body of Christ Romans 12:6

The church is built by God's grace through His ministry gifts

1 Corinthians 3:10.

Grace works: FOR YOU (salvation)

IN YOU (sanctification)

THROUGH YOU (service) 1 Corinthians 15:10.

Teaches us to say no to ungodliness Titus 2:11-13

Established in the grace of God Hebrews 13:9

NEED TO CONTINUE IN THE GRACE OF GOD Acts 13:43

### **FAITH**

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him. Hebrews 11:6

We need to see that there are 3 main aspects to faith in the context of what we are teaching.

#### **• Faith is relational** (it is who you know)

It must always be rooted in and come from our relationship with Christ.

Jesus is our source of Faith Hebrews 12:2 Galatians 2:17-21

God gives us a measure/deposit of Faith Romans 12:3

God's Word develops our Faith Romans 10:17

The Holy Spirit gives us the gift of Faith 1 Corinthians 12:9-14

The Holy Spirit produces in us the fruit of Faith Galatians 5:22

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Faith 2 Corinthians 4:13

God wants us to be strong in Faith Romans 4:18-25

We must get a fresh understanding and come into the full experience of what it means that *“The Just (Righteous one) shall live by faith.”*  
Habakkuk 2:4, Hebrews 10:37-38

- **Faith is Factual** (it is what you know)

In order to have a faith rooted in Christ (who is the Living Word) it must be based on scripture which is God’s written Word.

FAITH is not just wishful thinking or a positive attitude

It is knowing what God has said

It is believing what God has said

It is saying what God has said (in spite of circumstances)

It is acting on what God has said

FAITH is having complete confidence in what God has said He will do

- **Faith is Functional** (it is what you do)

Having faith that comes from Christ, rooted in the Word of God, we can now live and act like God intended and we see what we can do by faith.

Ephesians 2:8-9 Saved by Faith

Romans 5:1 Justified by Faith

Acts 26:18 Sanctified by Faith

1 Peter 1:5 Preserved by Faith

Galatians 3:9 Blessed by Faith

Romans 5:2 Access to God by Faith

Galatians 3:14 Receive the Holy Spirit by Faith

2 Corinthians 1:24 Stand by Faith

2 Corinthians 5:7 Live (walk) by Faith

1 Timothy 6:12 Fight by Faith

Hebrews 6:12 Promises met by Faith

1 Peter 5:9 Resist Satan by Faith (salvation)

1 John 5:4 Overcome the world by Faith

Mark 11:22-24 Prayers answered by Faith

James 1:5-6 Wisdom by Faith

James 5:15 Healing by Faith

## CONFLICT

Matthew 28:18-20

<sup>18</sup> Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

John 16:33

<sup>33</sup> “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

2 Corinthians 10:3-5

<sup>3</sup> For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. <sup>4</sup> The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. <sup>5</sup> We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

Ephesians 6:10:12

<sup>10</sup> Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. <sup>11</sup> Put on the full armour of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. <sup>12</sup> For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Ephesians 4:27

<sup>27</sup> and do not give the devil a foothold.

1 John 3:8

<sup>8</sup> He who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.

### **Areas of conflict:**

1. PERSONAL: Internal and external, natural and or spiritual
2. CHURCH: People, leadership, doctrine, practice and or spiritual attack
3. WOLRD: Home, workplace could be natural or spiritual

### **Major spiritual areas to deal with:**

1. WORLD: a system or government that is independent or opposed to God
2. FLESH: sinful nature, our human nature without God
3. THE DEVIL: Satan, father of lies, deceiver and accuser of God's people

### **KEYS FOR VICTORY**

THE CROSS: through it we crucify our sinful nature and die to the world's principles and power. Galatians 5:24, Colossians 2:20

THE WORD: through it we are transformed to think God's way.

Colossians 3:9-10, Ephesians 4:22-24

FAITH: through it we overcome, living in victory. Hebrews 12:2,

Ephesians 6:16, 1 John 5:3-5.

## **CLOTHING**

Garment of Praise: Isaiah 61:3.

Garments of Salvation Isaiah 61:10

Robe of Righteousness Isaiah 61:10

Clothe yourself with Strength Isaiah 52:1

Clothe yourself with The Lord Jesus Christ Romans 13:14. Galatians 3:27.

Clothe yourself with Compassion, Kindness, Humility, Gentleness and Patience Colossians 3:12; 1 Peter 5:5.

Clothed with the Power of the Holy Spirit. Luke 24:49.

## **ARMOUR**

In Ephesians 6:10-20 we find a description of the warfare that every Christian and Church are involved in not with people but with principalities and powers that are under the control of the devil and his forces

- Finally be strong in the Lord and His mighty power
- Put on the full armour of God
- Take your stand against the devil's schemes

The armour needs to be worn at all time both individually and the church

- Belt of Truth• Breastplate of Righteousness
- Shoes of Peace
- Shield of Faith
- Helmet of Salvation
- Sword of the Spirit

All these pieces of armour are a description of who Jesus Christ is.

Let us look at some of the weapons we have to use when in spiritual battle

- Name of Jesus
- Blood of Jesus
- Word of God
- Prayer, Praise and Worship
- Holy Spirit and His gifts
- Faith

## **CONCLUSION**

Jesus used many parables when teaching about the Kingdom of God. Mark 4:1-25 The Parable of the Sower is all about growth, please take time to read, study and apply to your situation. Jesus points out seven enemies that stop the Word from growing and producing a harvest. They are listed below.

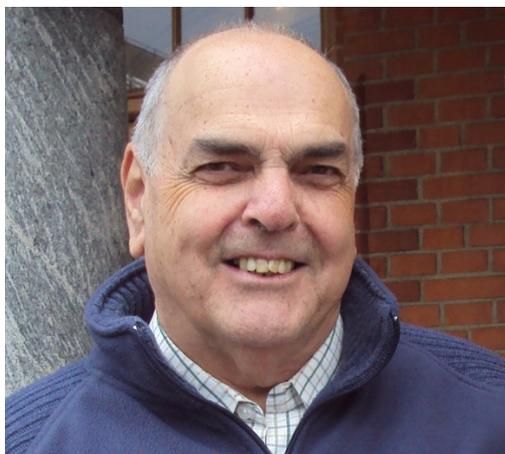
1. Satan comes to snatch the Word sown in our heart (v15)
2. Trouble or
3. Persecution come because of the Word they quickly fall away (17)
4. Worries of this life
5. Deceitfulness of wealth
6. Desire for other things choke the word making it unfruitful (v19)
7. Myself (v24/5)

## **QUOTE**

Boat in the water NO problem it was designed for this  
Water in the boat BIG problem we have to get water out or sink

Church in the world NO problem Jesus commanded us to go into the world  
World in the Church MAJOR we have to get the world out or we sink

When we know who we are in Christ and all that He has provided for us we can take our stand against the devil and all his schemes.



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