



*To Grow: to increase by natural development*

***\*Our natural development comes from His Word:***

*-1 Pet 2:2 "...crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may **grow** up in your salvation"*

*-1 Pet 3:18 "But grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."*

***\*Our natural development comes from living by His Spirit:***

*-Gal 5:22-26 "...the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control...Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited (*putting focus on self*), provoking and envying each other (*putting focus on others*)."* -parentheses added

***\*Our natural development comes from painful experiences:***

*-Romans 5:3-4 "...but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance character; and character hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit whom he has given us."*

*-James 1:2 "Consider it pure joy my brothers whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything."*

***\*Our natural development comes from asking Him:***

*-James 1:5 "If anyone lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him."*

*-Psalm 51:10 "Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me...Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me."*

***\*Our natural development comes from keeping our focus on Him***

*- "Therefore, since we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will NOT grow weary and lose heart." Hebrews 12:1-3*

*- A lot of times we focus on what we can do to make ourselves grow or on what others are doing. One thing we all have in common is that we have growing to do. None of us have arrived. The cool and loving thing about God is he has a race marked out for each of us so we don't have to look to our left or to our right, but only to Him.*

***Now***

***"To him who is able keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy- to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forever more! Amen."(Jude1:24)***



*April Williams*