

# Elementary Teachings

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Renewed Faith: Discipline is the Foundation / Faith; Mature; Spiritual Growth / Hebrews 6:1–3

The process of development and maturing, used to refer to the progress of the kingdom of God and the spiritual development of believers. Scripture uses images of growth (such as seeds, plants, and infants) to stress the dynamic nature of personal faith and the kingdom of God.

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## Hebrews 6:1–3 ESV

<sup>1</sup> Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, <sup>2</sup> and of instruction about washings, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. <sup>3</sup> And this we will do if God permits.

## Images of growth

### Infancy to maturity

#### Ephesians 4:13–15 ESV

<sup>13</sup> until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, <sup>14</sup> so that we may

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no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. <sup>15</sup> Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,

## Seeds and plants

### **Luke 8:14–15 ESV**

<sup>14</sup> And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. <sup>15</sup> As for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience.

## The apostles worked and prayed for growth in believers

### **2 Corinthians 13:9 ESV**

<sup>9</sup> For we are glad when we are weak and you are strong. Your restoration is what we pray for.

## Dimensions of spiritual growth

### In hope

#### **Romans 8:23–25 ESV**

<sup>23</sup> And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup> For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? <sup>25</sup> But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

### In faith

#### **2 Corinthians 10:15–16 ESV**

<sup>15</sup> We do not boast beyond limit in the labors of others. But our hope is that as your faith increases, our area of influence among you may be greatly enlarged, <sup>16</sup> so that we may preach the gospel in lands beyond you, without boasting of work already done in another's area of influence.

## In knowledge

**2 Peter 3:18 ESV**

<sup>18</sup> But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

## In love

**Philippians 1:9 ESV**

<sup>9</sup> And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment,

## Growth comes from God

**Colossians 2:19 ESV**

<sup>19</sup> and not holding fast to the Head, from whom the whole body, nourished and knit together through its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God.

## Growth comes through discipleship

### Putting away the sinful self

**1 Peter 2:1 ESV**

<sup>1</sup> So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander.

### Moving on from basic teaching

**Hebrews 6:1-2 ESV**

<sup>1</sup> Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, <sup>2</sup> and of instruction about washings, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment.

### Maturing in thinking

**1 Corinthians 14:20 ESV**

<sup>20</sup> Brothers, do not be children in your thinking. Be infants in evil, but in your thinking be mature.

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## Persevering in faith

**James 1:4** *ESV*

<sup>4</sup> And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

## Contributing to growth in the church by exercising gifts

**Ephesians 4:11-12** *ESV*

<sup>11</sup> And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, <sup>12</sup> to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,

