

August 8, 2010  
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## **Monday**

1Pet. 2:1 Therefore, putting aside all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander...

A child's maturity is not merely demonstrated by his addition of knowledge, new skills or abilities, but also by the habits, opinions, and actions he leaves behind. Like children's clothing, some things simply should be outgrown. The scripture often speaks of the attitudes and actions that believers must outgrow and leave behind. Don't simply measure your maturity by what you do or what you know. Measure too by the things you have put away: malice, deceit, hypocrisy, jealousy, outbursts, envy, slander, immorality, an unforgiving spirit.

## **Tuesday**

1 Pet. 2:2 Like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation.

Like food for the soul, the word of God applied to our lives brings growth and maturity. Maturity is judged by the standard of the scriptures. It is both the means and the measure of your walk with God. As you spend time with God's word listening to His heart, you will become more and more like Him. God's word does not simply inform you; the Holy Spirit uses the word to transform you. Consider how the word is working in your life? Through sermons, studies, or devotion times this week, what is God specifically saying to you? What does He desire of you? How is He encouraging you?

## **Wednesday**

2 Pet. 3:18 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.

Babies will grow given food and the right environment. God has created the newborn and the toddling child to grow. He has placed within their DNA the keys for maturity. Simply given physical and emotional nourishment growth will happen naturally and systematically. So too you will grow if you place yourself in the right environment. When you choose to attend and participate in worship and small group bible studies, when you surround yourself with other believers for mutual support and care, when you exercise your spiritual limbs for ministry in the church, you will -- that's right -- you will grow.

## **Thursday**

2 Cor. 13:5 Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves!

On the wall at our house there are pencil marks indicating the height of the children. Dates are inscribed beside each mark showing the progression over time. Here is one at 12 years. Here is another at 14. Each mark shows the miracle of growth and the blessing of health. Taking note of growth is a good thing. It gives you joy to mark the progress. If the marks stall, it could be an indicator of a problem in need of immediate attention. Make a note of your growth today. Where you see it progressing, give thanks and rejoice. If you see it stalled, make up your mind to do something about it. Measure, mark, and maintain your growth in Jesus.

## **Friday**

Eph. 5:15-16 Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil.

John Ortberg writes, "I once asked Dallas Willard how he monitored the condition of his soul. His immediate response was that he regularly asks himself two questions: 1) Am I growing more or less easily irritated these days? 2) Am I growing more or less easily discouraged these days?" Growing in grace changes how we interact with our world and each other. We are to grow both because of grace and in gracious interaction. God seeks to do this work in you by His grace. Simply and intentionally cooperate with God in His desire to grow you.