

Morning Lesson

GROWING PAINS

2 Pet. 3:18

INTRO:

1. Physically, we try to grow when we are young and try to stop when we are older.
2. Though it is hard to stay happy with the rate and amount of physical growth; spiritual, mental, social, and emotional growth may be even more difficult.
3. I want to be more aware of my need and feed in those areas. **Luke 2:52**
4. Perhaps remembering the following will help me to evaluate my growth.

I. GROWTH IS DIFFICULT TO DETERMINE.

- A. Physically it's easy with inches and pounds.
- B. Paul said our spiritual growth was from one degree of glory to another. **2 Cor. 3:18**
- C. To be able to evaluate takes much self-examination and honesty. **2 Cor. 13:5; Psalm 139:23, 24; 51:6**

II. GROWTH OFTEN BRINGS PAIN IN CHANGE.

- A. Jesus was not free from pain as he grew. **Heb. 5:8**
- B. Illus.: Howling dog.

III. GROWTH INVOLVES PROGRESS.

- A. It is sometimes argued that hospitals minister to sick people, schools to ignorant people and the church to sinful people; therefore, we should not set too high a standard for our church members. But sick people are expected to get well, and ignorant people are supposed to learn, and Christians should grow and become better.
- B. Paul was a blasphemer and persecutor, but after he received mercy he quit blaspheming and persecuting.

CONC:

1. How much did I grow last year?
2. Where is it hurting?
3. What are my plans for continued growth and what foods, vitamins, and exercise am I taking to encourage that growth?