

Growth – Part VIII

Stay the Course

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Spiritual Growth: Outline

- **Part I – Introduction:** *What is a biblical model for growth?*
- **Part II – Purpose:** *What is the biblical purpose for growth?*
- **Part III – Hindrances to Growth:** *Parable of soils (Mark 3)*
- **Part IV – Good Ground:** *Parable of soils Cont. (Mark 3)*
- **Part V – Strong Roots:** *Rooted in Faith (2 Pet 1:1-9)*
- **Part VI – Building Strong Branches:** *Add to your faith...(2 Pet 1:1-9)*
- **Part VII – Bearing Fruit:** *(John 15:1-8)*
- **Part VIII – Stay the Course**

Biblical Model of Growth

Psalm 1:1-4 Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; 2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. 3 He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper. 4 The ungodly are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind drives away.



- ▶ Previous topics: model, water, fruitfulness, but today...
- ▶ Righteous are like a tree “whose leaf does not wither”
 - ▶ Endurance, perseverance, staying the course

Review: Importance of Good Roots

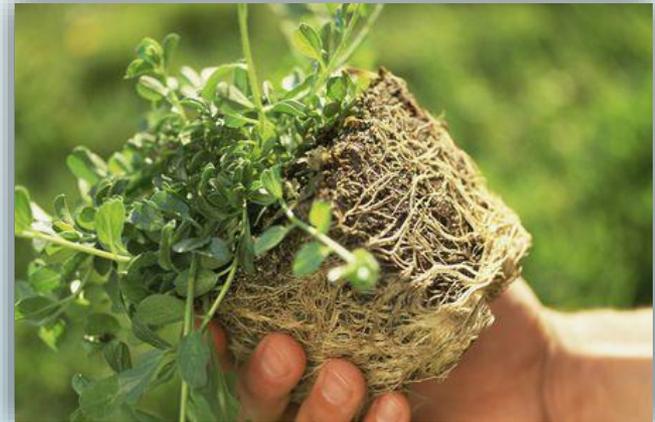
Jer 17:7 "Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, And whose hope is the LORD. 8 For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, Which spreads out its roots by the river, And will not fear when heat comes; But its leaf will be green, And will not be anxious in the year of drought, Nor will cease from yielding fruit.

- Promises of trusting (aka faith) God
 - Like a tree by water, spreading roots
 - Will not fear in heat, but leaf will be green
 - Will not be anxious in drought
 - Will not cease yielding fruit

Review: Stony Ground = No Depth = No Root

Mark 4:5 Some fell on stony ground, where it did not have much earth; and immediately it sprang up because it had no depth of earth. 6 But when the sun was up it was scorched, and because it had no root it withered away.

- Soil depth crucial for moisture storage
- Shallow roots can not withstand hot weather (vs. 17 persecution or tribulation)
- Healthy root system is essential to:
 - Endure Persecution
 - Support Growth
- Jesus confirms the meaning in vs. 16-17



No Root = Stumbling

Mark 4:16 These likewise are the ones sown on stony ground who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with gladness; 17 and they have no root in themselves, and so endure only for a time. Afterward, when tribulation or persecution arises for the word's sake, immediately they stumble.

- No root = no endurance, stumbling
- What is biblical endurance?

Col 1:23 if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard

1 Cor 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

Heb 6:19 This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil,

- Is endurance an anchor of the soul, immovable faith?

Steadfast vs. Endurance

Brief Survey of Greek Usage

Steadfast/Steadfastness

- Fixed, immovable, solid (e.g. faith)
 - **G4731/4733/4740**: establish, fix, to strengthen, confirm. Anything firm or solid,
 - **G949**: Fixed, sure, certain. Figuratively that upon which one may build, rely, or trust
 - **G1476**: seat, chair, base. Settled, steady, steadfast. Used metaphorically in referring to the mind and purpose

Endure/Endurance

- Endurance: to bear up or carry under a load; movement
 - **G5278/5297/5281**: *hupomeno*; To remain under, i.e., to persevere, endure, sustain, bear up under, suffer, as a load of miseries, adversities, persecutions with faith, patience.
 - **G5342**: to bring, carry. To bear.
 - **G2553**: To suffer(endure) evil or afflictions, to be afflicted
 - **G430**: To hold up or back from falling (endure sound doctrine)
 - **G3114**: To be long-suffering, as opposed to hasty anger or punishment; patiently endure

In Need of Endurance

Heb 10:35 Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. 36 For you have need of endurance (5281), so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise:

37 "FOR YET A LITTLE WHILE, AND HE WHO IS COMING WILL COME AND WILL NOT TARRY. 38 NOW THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH; BUT IF ANYONE DRAWS BACK, MY SOUL HAS NO PLEASURE IN HIM."

39 But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.

- Endurance while moving forward
 - Vs 36 "after you have done the will of God..."
 - Does not draw back
- G5281: Hupomone⁴ is associated with hope (1Thess 1:3) and refers to that quality of character which does not allow one to surrender to circumstances or succumb under trial.

Patient Endurance

Matt 24:13 But he who endures to the end shall be saved. G5278

Luke 8:15 But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience. G5281

Luke 21:19 By your patience possess your souls. G5281

Rom 2:7 eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality; G5281

Rom 15:4 For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. 5 Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, G5281

James 1:12 Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. G5278

► *Those who discredit the teachings of endurance do not accept what God actually says!*

Perseverance is from God

Phil 1:3 I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, 4 always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, 5 for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now, 6 being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;

- ▶ Just a reminder that it is God that supplies the strength for endurance.
- ▶ God has begun a work in us and will complete it!
- ▶ Yet, we are still told to endure! A paradox of scripture!

2 Pet 1:5 But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, 6 to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance (G5281), to perseverance godliness, 7 to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love.

Revelations Usage

All G5281

Rev 2:2 *(to Ephesus)* "I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; 3 and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary.

Rev 2:19 *(to Thyatira)* "I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience; and as for your works, the last are more than the first.

Rev 3:10 *(to Philadelphia)* Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.

Rev 13:10 He who leads into captivity shall go into captivity; he who kills with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.

Rev 14:12 Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.

- Patient endurance & perseverance are characteristic of God's saints

A note on Endurance and Commitment

Luke 17:32 Remember Lot's wife. 33 Whoever seeks to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it.

- ▶ Lot's wife was not committed to her salvation (Gen 19)
- ▶ Endurance and commitment are undeniable linked

Luke 9:62 But Jesus said to him, "No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

Heb 11:13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. 14 For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. 15 And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return.

Matt 10:38 And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.

Run with Endurance

Heb 12:1 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance (G5281) the race that is set before us, 2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls.

- ▶ Throw off every weight/sin & Run with endurance
 - ▶ This is not steadfastness...This is endurance!
- ▶ Looking to Jesus, author and finisher (perfecter) of faith
 - ▶ Vs. 3 “consider him...”
 - ▶ Are you discouraged or weary? Have you considered Him?
- ▶ Joy that set before Him endured the cross
 - ▶ What was Jesus’ Joy?

Example of a Growing, Fruitful and Enduring Church

Col 1:3 We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, 4 since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of your love for all the saints; 5 because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel, 6 which has come to you, as it has also in all the world, and is bringing forth fruit, as it is also among you since the day you heard and knew the grace of God in truth; 7 as you also learned from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf, 8 who also declared to us your love in the Spirit.

9 For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; 10 that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

Example of a Growing, Fruitful and Enduring Church

11 strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; 12 giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. 13 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, 14 in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. 17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. 18 And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

Example of a Growing, Fruitful and Enduring Church

19 For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, 20 and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.

21 And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled 22 in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight; 23 if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.

Example of a Growing, Fruitful and Enduring Church

- Vs. 10 Fully pleasing God, being fruitful in every good work
- Vs. 11 strengthened for endurance (patience) with joy
- Vs. 19-22 It pleased God that all His fullness dwell in Christ
 - To reconcile man to God.
 - Make peace through the blood of His cross
 - To present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach
- Jesus' Joy set before him was to fulfill the Father's plan of redemption, reconciliation and glorification.
- That's HOW Jesus endured the cross. Joy.

Run the Race!



Isaiah 40:31 But those who wait on the LORD Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint.

