

Christian Growth should be stronger and stronger.

Job 17:9 “*The righteous also shall hold on his way, and he that hath clean hands shall be stronger and stronger.*”

A Christian who does not grow is a weak believer. In this world a weak Christian is an easy target for Satan and his demons. A weak believer is not much value to God, to Christ, the church, nor is a good witness for the Lord.

Paul wrote to a weak church and said, **1 Corinthians 3:2 – 3** “*I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able. (3) For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?*” and it was because they did not grow in the Lord, it is because they did not grow stronger and stronger they acted like they were not saved. “*...ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men*” A Christians inability to grow in the Lord and His word makes Christians fall back into sinfulness and they forget how to walk like God’s children. The writer to the Hebrews wrote in, **Hebrews 5:12** “Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing.” The word “dull” means lazy- therefore God said Christians that do not grow, and grow are too lazy to hear and advance their growth in God’s word. The writer went on to say in verse 12 “*For when for **the time ye ought to be teachers**, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.*” This means Believers that have grown lazy not only do not advance in the Lord, but grow weaker and weaker. Then Paul wrote to the church at Ephesus in **Ephesians 4:14** “*That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;*” However, one that has grown lazy are exactly what Paul wrote against. Christians that fail in their growth process as a Christian has failed God, they have also failed the Lord Jesus Christ, and they have failed themselves, all because they have gotten lazy and refuse to walk in the Spirit. **Galatians 5:16** “*This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.*”

A. Christians were saved to advance in spiritual and biblical strength.

1. Job told us in our text, *“The righteous also shall hold on his way, and he that hath clean hands shall be stronger and stronger.”* God said, if we are righteous, will *“hold on his way”* or to seize the moment or take possession and walk in the pureness of the scripture *“shall be stronger and stronger”*
2. God has given us all the tools of growth, **2 Corinthians 1:21 – 22** *“Now he which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, is God; (22) Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.”*
 - a. *“he which stablisheth us with you in Christ”* means- God gives us grace to be faithful.
 - b. *“and hath anointed us”* meaning – God has made us what we are, ordained us and taught us, and given us grace. So, any failure is on our part, we are to blame.
 - c. *“Who hath also sealed us”* This is that act of the Holy Spirit by which the work of grace is deepened in the heart of the believer, so that he has an increasing conviction and ability to grow stronger and stronger.
 - d. *“and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.”* This means caution-money, deposited by a purchaser in pledge of full payment. God made the investment through Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, He has given to us all the tools, but the question is, are we doing our part to advance our spiritual strength?
3. **Ephesians 4:30** *“And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.”* - Our failure to grow stronger and stronger as God saved us to do is called “grieving” the Holy Spirit, we were seal by God’s Holy Spirit to be strong servants to God. To walk in the Spirit or God’s word and failing to do so is grieving the Holy Spirit of God.

B. As children of God, we are responsible.

1. The word “lazy” does not refer to God, it refers to believers. God told us, **2 Timothy 2:15** *“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”* – If we fail God’s command then we will fail.
2. **2 Corinthians 7:1** *“Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of*

God.” – We cannot be in the process of perfecting holiness if we are not “cleansing ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh”

3. Walking in the way of worldly flesh will never make one stronger in the Lord.

Galatians 5:25 “*If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.*”

C. Conclusion

Growth in the Lord starts with a daily exercise in the word of God. Lazy people will never grow stronger, but rather lose strength and get weak until they are useless.

God will give us all the tools we need, but we must use those tools. God will give us the ability to grow if we ask, if we truly desire.