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Fellowship and Growth¹

“But grow in grace and in knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity.”

2 Peter 3:18 NAS

I prayed for growth, my friends, and guess what? It started to rain. And I didn't like that. I didn't want the rain. I didn't like the rain. I wanted to grow my way.

A plant needs five things to grow, and we also, need certain things to grow as Christians.

- 1. Minerals:** Oh, minerals were fine. I liked feasting on the Word of God. I enjoyed serving in His house, leading worship, and being fed while I poured out to others. "Minerals" are great!
- 2. Sunlight:** I loved basking in the Son-light. The Bible says that when we look to Him, we sparkle; we radiate His light, and I loved that. ([Psalm 34:5](#)) The more I grew in Christ, the more Christ-like I started to become, and that was fantastic. Give me all the Son-light.
- 3. Carbon Dioxide:** Our Lord God gives us breath in our lungs and from the time we were children we have been growing. Every morning we wake up, He gives us air to breathe to keep us growing and nourished. Air, breath in the lungs . . . Check! I'll for sure keep that!
- 4. Temperature:** Through all season, God has kept me; and He has kept you. When it's been a warm season we grow and grow, and in the cold season when we are lying dormant, God is still working. I have learned to "go with the flow" when it comes to seasonal changes and if that helps me to grow, so be it!
- 5. Water:** Rain. Thunder. Lightening. Winds. Hold on . . . I don't want that. I need the rain to grow? No Thanks. When we pray for growth, we cannot pick and choose how to grow. God causes that rain, and in the rain, we begin to thrive. In the rain, everything that isn't Him is washed away. In the rain, our roots dig down deeper, and we cling to Him and His Word. In the rain, we learn our strength. In the rain, He waters us with His Word so that we grow into Him.

I prayed that the Lord would form me into His image. I prayed that He would remove anything or anyone in my life that wasn't His will. I prayed that He would "increase me and my territory"; just like Jabez! I prayed that He would perfect me. I prayed all the "holy" prayers, and I wanted to grow, but I didn't want the rain and mud that came along with that growth. **I wanted to grow MY way.** When we pray for growth, we will often find that the rain washes away people, places, things, thoughts, memories, and opinions that don't align with God's word and His will for our lives. It hurts, doesn't it? Gosh, it hurts. But it is necessary if we want to grow.

I don't know who this is for, but I want to tell you, if you're going to grow, you've got to embrace the rain. If you're going to be more like Him, you've got to settle it ... it's going to rain. In this day and age we don't want to hear that, do we? We want to "grow pretty," how we want, the way we want, and when we want. We don't want the rain or the mud that goes along with it. Remember, that in those dark and dirty seasons, God is growing you. **If you are in a season of rain, stop for a moment and thank the Lord for it. Because even if you can't see it, even if the rain is blinding, your roots are deep in Him and you are growing. Amen.**

¹ <https://asymphonyofpraise.com/blog/i-asked-god-to-grow>

“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” Matthew 28:18 – 20

