



What Hinders Our Growth?

Galatians 5:7-10



Introduction

- **In our previous lesson, we looked at five areas of growth.**
 - Our Knowledge & Understanding.
 - Our Trust in God.
 - Our Love.
 - Our Dependability.
 - Our Perseverance.



Introduction

- In this lesson, we will consider hinderances to our growth in these five areas.



What Hinders Our Growth...

- **In Knowledge & Understanding?**
 - A lack of desire to know God's word.
 - Jesus (and Isaiah) referred to those who lacked a desire to know God's word. ***Matt 13:13-17***

Matthew 13:13-17

13 Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand.

14 And in them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says: 'Hearing you will hear and shall not understand, And seeing you will see and not perceive;

15 For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, And their eyes they have closed, Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them.'

Matthew 13:13-17

16 But blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear;

17 for assuredly, I say to you that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.



What Hinders Our Growth...

- **In Knowledge & Understanding?**
 - A lack of desire to know God's word.
 - Jesus (and Isaiah) referred to those who lacked a desire to know God's word. ***Matt 13:13-17***
cf. Acts 28:26-27; Rom 11:7-10

Romans 11:7-10

7 What then? Israel has not obtained what it seeks; but the elect have obtained it, and the rest were blinded.

8 Just as it is written: “God has given them a spirit of stupor, Eyes that they should not see And ears that they should not hear, To this very day.”

9 And David says: “Let their table become a snare and a trap, A stumbling block and a recompense to them.

10 Let their eyes be darkened, so that they do not see, And bow down their back always.”



What Hinders Our Growth...

- **In Knowledge & Understanding?**
 - A lack of Bible study.
 - Sunday mornings, Sunday afternoons, and Wednesday classes are not enough time spent learning God's word.
 - Without consistent Bible study, we will not grow to maturity.
Cf. Heb 5:12-14



What Hinders Our Growth...

- **In Knowledge & Understanding?**
 - A lack of Bible study.
 - Let your knowledge and understanding grow like building blocks.
 - You should have better knowledge and a greater understanding today than you did ten years ago.



What Hinders Our Growth...

- **In Knowledge & Understanding?**
 - A lack of Bible study.
 - Creed books leads away from proper understanding.
 - Lesson books can be wrong or abbreviate the truth.
 - Relying solely upon the answers from your favorite preacher is not sufficient.



What Hinders Our Growth...

- **In Knowledge & Understanding?**
 - An unwillingness to be corrected.
2 Tim 3:16-17

2 Timothy 3:16-17

16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.



What Hinders Our Growth...

- **In Knowledge & Understanding?**
 - An unwillingness to be corrected.
2 Tim 3:16-17
 - Apollos took correction.
Acts 18:24-28
 - The Pharisees were unwilling to accept correction. ***Acts 7:51-54***

Acts 7:51-54

51 “You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you.

52 Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who foretold the coming of the Just One, of whom you now have become the betrayers and murderers,

53 who have received the law by the direction of angels and have not kept it.”

54 When they heard these things they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed at him with their teeth.



What Hinders Our Growth...

- **In Knowledge & Understanding?**
 - An unwillingness to be corrected. ***2 Tim 3:16-17***
 - Apollos took correction. ***Acts 18:24-28***
 - The Pharisees were unwilling to accept correction. ***Acts 7:51-54***
 - Elymas the sorcerer refused correction. ***Acts 13:8-11***

Acts 13:8-11

8 But Elymas the sorcerer (for so his name is translated) withstood them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith.

9 Then Saul, who also is called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him

10 and said, “O full of all deceit and all fraud, you son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, will you not cease perverting the straight ways of the Lord?”

11 And now, indeed, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you shall be blind, not seeing the sun for a time.” And immediately a dark mist fell on him, and he went around seeking someone to lead him by the hand.



What Hinders Our Growth...

- **In Knowledge & Understanding?**
 - An unwillingness to be corrected.
2 Tim 3:16-17
 - Solomon wrote, *“He who keeps instruction is in the way of life, But he who refuses correction goes astray.”* ***Prov 10:17***
 - Selfishness and arrogance negates the humility needed for correction. ***Jam 4:7; 1 Pet 5:5-7***



What Hinders Our Growth...

- **In Trusting in God?**
 - Neglecting God's word.
 - Listening to worldly wisdom.
- 1 Cor 1:18-25***

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

19 For it is written: “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, And bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.”

20 Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?

21 For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

22 For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom;

23 but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness,

24 but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

25 Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.



What Hinders Our Growth...

- In Trusting in God?
 - Neglecting God's word.
 - Listening to worldly wisdom.
1 Cor 1:18-25
 - Believing a lie. ***2 Thess 2:9-12***

2 Thessalonians 2:9-12

9 The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders,

10 and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

11 And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie,

12 that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.



What Hinders Our Growth...

- **In Trusting in God?**
 - Neglecting God's word.
 - Listening to worldly wisdom.
1 Cor 1:18-25
 - Believing a lie. ***2 Thess 2:9-12***
 - Listening to yourself.
Cf. Prov 14:12
 - You can deceive yourself.
Ex. Gal 6:3; James 1:26



What Hinders Our Growth...

- In Love?
 - Loving the world. ***1 Jn 2:15-17***

1 John 2:15-17

15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

16 For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.

17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.



What Hinders Our Growth...

- **In Love?**
 - Loving the world. ***1 Jn 2:15-17***
 - The desires of the world.
 - The people of the world.
 - We must love the Lord more than we love our own families.
Cf. Luke 14:26-27



What Hinders Our Growth...

- In Love?
 - Loving self. ***2 Tim 3:1-5***

2 Timothy 3:1-5

- 1 But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come:
- 2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,
- 3 unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good,
- 4 traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,
- 5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!



What Hinders Our Growth...

- In Love?
 - Loving self. *2 Tim 3:1-5*
 - We must “hate” our “life in this world.” *John 12:23-26*

John 12:23-26

23 But Jesus answered them, saying, “The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified.

24 Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain.

25 He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

26 If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor.



What Hinders Our Growth...

- **In Dependability?**
 - Conforming to the world.
Rom 12:2
 - We stop serving the Lord.
 - We give into temptations.
 - We become servants of unrighteousness.
Cf. Rom 6:12-14

Romans 6:12-14

12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts.

13 And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.

14 For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.



What Hinders Our Growth...

- **In Dependability?**
 - Conforming to the world.
Rom 12:2
 - We stop serving the Lord.
 - We give into temptations.
 - We become servants of unrighteousness.
Cf. Rom 6:12-14
 - We become wicked and lazy.
Matt 25:24-29

Matthew 25:24-29

24 “Then he who had received the one talent came and said, ‘Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed.

25 And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.’

26 “But his lord answered and said to him, ‘You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed.

27 So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest.

Matthew 25:24-29

28 So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents.

29 'For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away.



What Hinders Our Growth...

- **In Perseverance?**
 - Becoming “weary and discouraged.” ***Heb 12:3***
 - Fear of the world. ***Matt 10:28***
 - Looking back.
 - Remember Lot’s wife.



What Hinders Our Growth...

- **In Perseverance?**
 - Drawing back.
 - Drawing back into an “easier” life where decisions and actions were taken without any consideration or guidance from God’s word.
Heb 10:36-39

Hebrews 10:36-39

36 For you have need of endurance, 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.



Conclusion

- **What is hindering your growth?**
 - Christians should always be growing towards spiritual maturity.
 - If there is something hindering your growth, then either remove or overcome the source of hinderance.