

# Follow – Walking in the Way of Jesus

The Parable of the Growing Seed

Mark 4:26-29

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August 17<sup>th</sup> 2025



Gospel Received (Implanted)	Identity	Purpose	Belonging
Gospel Believed (Growing)	Christ's work/life in me	Christ's work/life around me	Christ's work/life through me
Gospel Displayed (Producing)	Faith	Hope	Love

## Mark 4:26-27 – God's work is MYSTERIOUS but MEASURABLE

- Christ's work/life in me – Christ is transforming my heart, renewing my mind and shaping my character, into His likeness by the power of His Spirit. Produces: FAITH
  - Eg. Doubts, Distractions, Defensiveness – Confronting the why of our thinking and behaviours.
- Christ's work/life around me – Christ is revealing His presence and purposes in the world, drawing people to Himself and renewing all things. Produces: HOPE
  - Eg. Worldview – The lens by which we see the world, as it is, as it should be, and as it will be
- Christ's work/life through me – Christ is extending His love and truth through my words and actions so others may encounter Him. Produces: LOVE
  - Eg. Calling – How God has uniquely placed me, gifted me, resourced me to encourage and testify

The Man NOTICE the PROCESS and IDENTIFIES THE PRODUCT: Blade = Spiritual Awakening / Head = Spiritual Rootedness / Grain = Spiritual Establishment

Therefore: WE celebrate the MOVEMENT not the MILESTONES:

- Continual Growth: Steady Progression holiness towards maturity
- Cyclical Growth: Periods of decline followed by intense renewal

Stage	Faith	Hope	Love
<i>Blade (Awakening)</i>	The believer begins to grasp that they are accepted in Christ. Trust is fragile and often dependent on feelings.	Awareness that God's story is bigger than their own; initial openness to God's purposes.	First steps in loving others because of God's love; mostly expressed in safe or familiar relationships.
<i>Head (Rooted)</i>	Confidence in God's character grows through trials; less swayed by doubt or performance-based identity.	Sense of calling develops; the believer starts to live with the future Kingdom in mind, making intentional life choices.	Love becomes consistent and sacrificial; begins to cross comfort zones and cultural boundaries.
<i>Full Grain (Established)</i>	Deep trust in God's presence and promises; reflex to turn to Christ in all circumstances.	Perseveres through hardship with vision fixed on God's ultimate renewal; inspires others to join God's mission.	Love marked by humility, service, and joy; pours out life for others without self-protection or calculation

Date: August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025

**Series: Follow**

**Title: Parable of the Growing Seed**

**Primary Passage: Mark 4:26-29**

**Secondary Passage: Col. 2:6-7**

**Big Question: How is spiritual growth identified and measured?**

**Big Idea: Spiritual growth is identified by an awakening of Christ's life in us, deepened roots in him, and establishing influence on others. It is measured by observable change from continual or cyclical growth.**

**Keywords: Growth, Renewal, Science, Awakened, Rooted, Established, Continual, Cyclical, Faith, Hope, Love**

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**GOING DEEPER Questions:**

What did you do this week that required faith? How did it deepen your trust in God?

Read Mark 4:26-29. What stands out to you about this passage? Do you agree that even though God's work (ie. Spiritual life and growth) is mysterious it is still measurable? Why is that significant in the life of the disciple?

How do you prepare yourself for continual growth? When have you experienced cyclical growth?

Spend some time working through the Assessment Questions from the Sermon:

1. Where have I seen evidence of God's life in me recently?
  - Simple Measurable: Identify 1–2 recent situations where your response was more Christlike than it might have been a year ago.
2. How am I intentionally deepening my roots in Christ?
  - Simple Measurable: Track the frequency of one core discipline (e.g., days spent in personal Scripture reading or prayer in the past week).
3. Who is impacting my growth right now?
  - Simple Measurable: Name one person who has recently challenged, encouraged, or strengthened your walk with Christ.
4. Who is being impacted by my growth right now?
  - Simple Measurable: Name one person you've encouraged, served, or shared Christ with in the past month.

Respond to God in prayer, asking Jesus to show you where and how He is working in your life...