



How to Grow Up Big and Strong

1 Peter 1:22-2:3
September 7, 2025

- **THE BIG IDEA:** There is a definitive moment in the life of the Christian where they are **born again** but the Christian life does not stop at being born again. All Christians reach a point where they need to grow up and the Bible provides us with the information on how to do that. The reason that so many Christians are struggling with their faith is because they have never **grown up**.

1 Peter 1:22-2:3 (NASB95)

1 22 Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart, 23 for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God. 24 For, "All flesh is like grass, And all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, And the flower falls off, 25 But the word of the Lord endures forever." And this is the word which was preached to you. Therefore, putting aside all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander, 2 like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation, 3 if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord.

The Necessity of the New Birth

- + The Christian life can be defined as the life of **God** in the soul of **man**. (Galatians 2:20)
- + The Christian should never tire of hearing about the new birth.
- + Christians live an **obedient** life because of the Gospel.
- + The Gospel is not something that you have done; it is something that God does in you.
- + How does the Old Testament refer to the new birth?
 - **Circumcision** of the heart (Deuteronomy 30:6)
 - Give a heart of **flesh** (Ezekiel 36:26)
 - The New **Covenant** (Jeremiah 31).
- + To have knowledge of the **truth** does not mean that you are born again.
- + To be born again means that a radical **reformation** has taken place in your life.

- + Until the imperishable seed of God's Word is planted in your heart, you will never be born again.

The Only Thing that Endures Forever

- Man constantly tries to address the issues of life and death on their own.
- Everything in this world is **temporary**.
- A prolonged life is not eternal life.
- "Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away" - James 3:14

How to Grow Up

- Love for God and love for neighbor is the **root** of the Christian life.
- There needs to be a natural **progression** in the lives of Christians. We aren't meant to stay the same.
- The Christian should naturally long for God and His Word.
- "Christian maturity brings deliverance. Growth is evidence of progress in the Christian life. It is the word of God that feeds the soul, bringing health and spiritual strength. Deprive a Christian of the Word of God and his life will shrivel and dry up like an unwatered plant." - Robert Mounce
- Many Christians struggle because they haven't truly recognized that their sins have been **forgiven**.
- Growing Christians don't settle for the bare **minimum**.
- Christian growth cannot happen apart from God and His Word.

"There are two kinds of beauty; there is a beauty which God gives at birth, and which withers as a flower. And there is a beauty which God grants when by His grace men are born again. That kind of beauty never vanishes but blooms eternally."

Abraham Kuyper
