

GROWING AS A CHRISTIAN

BIBLE VERSES: 2 Peter 3:18

Growing is a natural part of life for every living thing. We watch plants grow from tiny seeds into grandiose displays of color. Little animals greet life with enthusiasm and develop into robust pets. And as parents and grandparents, we are fascinated as we observe our children and their offspring move from childhood, through adolescence and become adults.

One's growth is not confined to physical processes. Growth also takes place emotionally and spiritually. We are urged to grow into mature persons who bear Christ's likeness. This, too, should be a natural process, but often the process fails. It does not seem to "just happen." We do not become mature simply because years pass by. Job says in [Job 32:9](#) (NIV), *"It is not only the old who are wise, not only the aged who understand what is right."*

This statement implies that there is more to growing than passively experiencing years that go by. That there is something we must do in order to make the process of development toward maturity a reality for us. Other Scriptures affirm our need to grow. [1 Peter 2:2](#) says, *"Like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation."*

REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1) What are the main differences between physical and spiritual maturity? 1 Peter 2:2, Hebrews 5:11-14**

- 2) What are the important things to note about spiritual growth? Eph 4:13, Phil 3:12-14, 2 Pet 1:3**

- 3) What is the key element that helps us grow and how do we ensure we grow spiritually? 1 Pet 2:2, James 1:22**

- 4) How will you apply this lesson personally?**