

Growing in Strength
Pro 3:13-15
By Russell Earl

Thesis: I want to show some practical points concerning growth in Bible knowledge.

- Intro: 1. What does it take to grow?
2. What hinders one from growing in God's Word?

I. How do you grow?

A. Growth Types Compared

1. Muscle growth – muscle fibers are torn and repaired and combined with good nutrition and proper rest the muscle grows.
2. Spiritual growth – knowledge comes by a focused, determined continual effort

B. Time, dedication, repetition

1. Time – every schedule has more time for God
 - a. More time for prayer and Bible study
2. Dedication – several studies indicate it can take between 21 to 66 days to form a new habit.
 - a. That means you should start your plan today
3. Repetition – set a schedule and keep at it.
 - a. The same time every day
 - b. Develop a study format and repeat it

C. Make a plan & Work the Plan

- a. Make a plan
- b. Work the plan and keep at it.

II. Hinderances to Growth

A. The wrong attitude

1. Arrogant attitude towards growth – “I know everything”
 - a. “I know enough”
 - b. Attitudes do not always require words...
 - c. Man has been warned of such arrogance (**1 Cor 8:1**)
2. Apathetic Attitude
 - a. **The Christian should desire to know all they can about God**
 - b. **It's those you love the most that you know the most about, doesn't that include God?**

B. Not understanding the importance of knowledge

1. **Pro 15:14**

- a. Man is encouraged to pay attention to wisdom (**Pro 5:1**)

C. Arrogant attitudes towards the efforts of others

1. **Nothing hinders growth quite like a pompous person**

- a. **Arrogance does not encourage growth, it only hinders it.**

III. Lessons for us today.

A. Truth is not for sale

1. We are to buy the truth with our desire and dedication (**Pro 23:23**)

B. Knowledge of the truth saves

1. **Ecc 2:12-14**

- a. Wisdom is greater than living in the darkness of ignorance
- b. Both the wise and the fool will one day die, yet it is better to live as the wise than to walk in darkness of ignorance like a fool.

Application & Conclusion:

1. **If you have not made learning God's Word a priority, it's not too late (Ps 119:162)**
2. **Decide for yourself to grow.**
 - a. **The point of spiritual growth is not to boast, it's not to talk down to others.**
 - i. **If this is your reason, then repent.**
 - b. **The point is to grow closer to God and to be able to lead others to God.**
3. Full Invitation

Non-Christians must:

Hear – James 1:22, Romans 10:15,17

Believe – Jn 12:44, Jn 8:24, Mt 16:16

Repent – Luke 13:2-3

Confess – John 12:42, Romans 10:9

Be Baptized – 1 Pt 3:21, Acts 22:16, Col 2:11, Mk 16:16, Rom 6:3-4

Live faithfully – John 14:15, Rev 2:10

Christians must:

Repent: Acts 17:20, Acts 8:37, Lk 13:3

Pray: James 5:16, 1 Jn 1:9