

# Ch 8: Growing up into Christ

## *Steps to Christ*

### **Part 1: p. 67-69**

Just as plants are designed to grow and mature, powered by sunlight, the Christian life should be one of growth, maturing and bearing fruit, powered by the Son of God. It is only by abiding in Him, being illuminated by His words, communing with Him daily, indeed hourly, that our character may be developed and transformed into His likeness. Apart from Him we have no power to resist temptation or to grow in grace and holiness.

### **Discussion Questions**

1. What aspects of plant growth do you find the most interesting or impressive?
  - a. How big and strong plants become from such little seeds
  - b. How their growth is so powerful it can lift and split concrete
  - c. The massive size and height of the sequoia and redwood trees
  - d. The variety of shapes and sizes they can take when pruned and trained
  - e. The variety of shapes, colors, and flavors of fruit that different plants produce
  - f. The long lifespan they can have
  - g. How they can frequently keep growing, though slowly, in even the harshest environments
2. What are some ways in which plant growth and a Christian's spiritual growth are actually very different?
3. Which Bible characters' spiritual growth do you find the most inspiring?
  - a. Esther
  - b. Moses
  - c. Nicodemus
  - d. Paul
  - e. Peter
  - f. Ruth
  - g. Samuel
  - h. \_\_\_\_\_?

### **Activity**

a) Place an old pot or bowl upside down on a section of grass in your yard and weigh it down with a heavy object so that it stays in place to block out all the light. Remove the bowl 4 days later to observe the effect on the grass. b) Locate 2 similarly sized weeds in your yard; cut one of them off near the ground and leave it on the ground. Observe the two of them 4-7 days later.

### **Part 2: p. 70-75**

Ellen White encourages the reader to begin each day by consecrating her/himself to God, surrendering to Him, and trusting Him. Rather than dwelling on our own faults and weaknesses, our task is just to keep our eyes fixed on Him, for by "beholding Him we become changed." Letting Him live out His life in us through the power of the Holy Spirit, we will supernaturally grow, by His power, and produce fruit as naturally as an apple tree produces apples.

### **Discussion Question**

1. To accurately detect a counterfeit \$100 bill, the best approach is not to concentrate on all the different ways a bill can be counterfeited but instead to study genuine \$100 bills so carefully you will not be misled by the counterfeit. How is this like the advice Ellen White gives the readers of this chapter when it comes to "growing up into Christ"?

## Activity

Make a conscious effort to have at least a short devotion each day this week and end your devotional time in prayer. In your prayer tell Jesus you want to give yourself wholly to Him today, and ask Him to come into your heart and stay with you all day. Give Him all your plans for the day and ask Jesus to direct you and be your Strength and Helper in all you do. At the end of the week, reflect on all the good things that occurred in your week by the indwelling of Jesus in your life.

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## Chapter 8: Notable Quotes Activity

Locate and underline the quotes below in your copy of *Steps to Christ*. Read them at least 2x. Which of them do you think is the most:

a. **Reassuring** b. **Amazing** c. **Exciting** d. **Thought-provoking?**

**Chapter 8 Refs.** 1 Pet.2:2, Eph. 4:15, Isa. 61:3, John 3:3, Mark 4:28, Hosea 14:5,7, Luke 12:27, Isa. 60:9, Ps. 84:11, Ps. 72:6, John 16:4,5, Ps. 16:8, Col. 2:6, Heb. 10:38, Matt. 11:28,29, Ps. 37:7, Isa. 30:15, Gal. 2:20, 2 Cor 3:18, James 5:17, Matt 28:20, John 16:23,24, Rom. 8:34, John 14:17; 16:7; 17:20, Phil. 2:13, Acts 4:13, John 5:19; 14:10, Eph 4:15

*The child cannot, by any anxiety or power of its own, add to its stature. No more can you, by anxiety or effort of yourself, secure spiritual growth. p. 67*

*As the flower turns to the sun, that the bright beams may aid in perfecting its beauty and symmetry, so should we turn to the Sun of Righteousness, that heaven's light may shine upon us, that our character may be developed into the likeness of Christ. p. 68*

*Apart from Him you have no life. You have no power to resist temptation or to grow in grace and holiness. p. 68*

*Our growth in grace, our joy, our usefulness, - all depend upon our union with Christ. It is by communion with Him, daily, hourly, - by abiding in Him, - that we are to grow in grace. He is not only the Author, but the Finisher of our faith. It is Christ first and last and always. He is to be with us, not only at the beginning and the end of our course, but at every step of the way. p. 69*

*Consecrate yourself to God in the morning; make this your very first work. Let your prayer be, "Take me, O Lord, as wholly Thine. I lay all my plans at Thy feet. Use me today in Thy service. Abide with me, and let all my work be wrought in Thee." This is a daily matter. Each morning consecrate yourself to God for that day. Surrender all your plans to Him, to be carried out or given up as His providence shall indicate. Thus day by day you may be giving your life into the hands of God, and thus your life will be molded more and more after the life of Christ. p. 70*

*Satan is always wanting to break our tie to Christ - this is where we need to watch and pray. p. 71*

*Looking unto Jesus, we are safe. Nothing can pluck us out of His hand. p. 72*

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