

HOW GOD HELPS US GROW
#SermonHabits3
Habits of Spiritual Growth Part 3
Dr. Mark Jackson - April 4, 2017

Romans 12:2 Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking... Unlike the culture around you, which is always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, and develops well-formed maturity in you. (MSG)

Colossians 4:12b ...that you will grow to be spiritually mature and have everything God wants for you. (NCV)

1 Corinthians 3:6-7 I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow.⁷ So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. (NIV)

Galatians 6:8 The person who plants selfishness, ignoring the needs of others and ignoring God – harvests a crop of weeds. All he'll have to show for his life is weeds! But the one who plants in response to God, letting God's Spirit do the growth work in him, harvests a crop of real life, eternal life. (MSG)

Three Ways God Helps Us Grow

1. THROUGH THE CIRCUMSTANCES WE EXPERIENCE

Romans 5:3-4 We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they are good for us – they help us learn to be patient. And patience develops strength of character in us and helps us trust God more each time we use it until finally our hope and faith are strong and steady. (LB)

Romans 8:28-29 ...to those who love God, who are called according to his plan, everything that happens fits into a pattern for good. For God in his foreknowledge, chose us to bear the family likeness of his Son... (PH)

2 Corinthians 4:17 This small and temporary trouble we suffer will bring us a tremendous and eternal glory, much greater than the trouble. (TEV)

2. THROUGH THE CHALLENGES WE FACE

James 1:2-4 Consider it a sheer gift, friends, when tests and challenges come at you from all sides.³ You know that under pressure, your faith-life is forced into the open and shows its true colors.⁴ So don't try to get out of anything prematurely. Let it do its work so you become mature and well-developed, not deficient in any way. (MSG)

Hebrews 6:1 So come on, let's leave the preschool fingerpainting exercises on Christ and get on with the grand work of art. **Grow up in Christ**. The basic foundational truths are in place: turning your back on "salvation by self-help" and **turning in trust toward God**. (MSG)

3. THROUGH THE COMMITMENTS WE MAKE

2 Chronicles 16:9a GOD is always on the alert, constantly on the lookout for people who are **totally committed to him**. (MSG)

- To **WORSHIP GOD** - Joshua 24:14
- To **SERVE GOD** - 1 Samuel 7:3
- To **SPIRITUAL GROWTH** - 1 Timothy 4:7
- To **SHARE GOD'S WORD** - 2 Corinthians 9:13
- To **JESUS CHRIST**

Hebrews 7:19 **The Law brought nothing to maturity**. Another way, **through Jesus**, is **the way that works**, bringing us right into the presence of God. (MSG)

Titus 2:14 He gave His life to free us from every kind of sin, to cleanse us, and to make us His very own people, **totally committed** to doing what is right. (NLT)

Hosea 12:6 **What are you waiting for?** Return to your God! **Commit yourself** in love... (MSG)