

8-23-26 Do You Really - Want To Grow

Overview

We often say we want to grow in our relationship with God, but growth is not automatic. Using the analogy of gardening and the life of Moses, this message shows that real spiritual growth requires three things: the right environment, people who tend us, and personal responsibility. Plants don't thrive by accident, and neither do we. God has prepared good soil—now the question is whether we will grow.

Main Points

1. **Your environment is important** Plants need the right soil, sun, water, and conditions. Many try to grow in the same soil where they first met Jesus and find the excitement dies. Moses had to leave the comfort of Egypt for the desert of Midian before God could call him at the burning bush (Exodus 2; Matthew 13:5-6).
2. **You will need tending** No plant grows well in isolation. Moses needed Jethro. The paralyzed man needed friends who would dig through a roof (Luke 5:18-20). David needed Nathan to confront him (2 Samuel 12:5-7). We need people who love God and love us enough to pull weeds and help us grow.
3. **You will have to take responsibility** The seed itself must grow. Growth requires a “yes” in your heart and a “no” to your flesh. It often means dying to certain mindsets, sins, expectations, and entitlements (John 12:24). Scripture commands us: “Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 3:18; see also 2 Peter 1:5; Philippians 2:12).

Reflection Questions

- Where in my life am I still trying to grow in “Egypt”—a comfortable but unfruitful environment?
- Who has God placed around me as a “Jethro” or “Nathan”? Am I allowing them to tend me?
- What is one area where I have been waiting for someone else to make me grow instead of taking responsibility?
- Is there something (a habit, mindset, relationship, or sin) that needs to “die” so new life can grow?

Application

- Identify one environment change you need to make this month (a class, group, serve team, or relationship).
- Invite one trusted person to speak into your life and help “tend the garden.”
- Take a concrete next step: enroll in Alpha, a DGroup, a Bible study, the Overcoming Strongholds class, or a serve team.
- Pray daily: “Lord, give me the desire and discipline to grow. Help me say yes to You and no to my flesh.”

Group Discussion Prompts

1. Share a time when a change of environment (people, place, or rhythm) helped you grow spiritually. What made the difference?
2. Why do we often resist the very people or situations that could tend us well? What does healthy “tending” look like in community?

3. Jesus said a kernel of wheat must die to produce many seeds (John 12:24). What does “dying” look like practically in the Christian life?
4. Look at the growth opportunities listed (Alpha, DGroups, serve teams, meetups, etc.). Which one is the Holy Spirit nudging you toward, and what is holding you back?
5. End by praying for one another—specifically for courage to change environments, humility to receive tending, and resolve to take responsibility for growth.