



September 4, 2005

## Maturing in Christ

### Colossians 2.6-7

*“So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, **rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.**”*  
Colossians 2.6-7

Becoming a Christian is wonderful, but it is only the beginning of a walk with God in which we should be maturing more and more and more. In other words, it's a journey. And if you've know the Lord for twenty years, ten years, five years, even one year, you should be further along in your journey. You should be more mature than you were when you first came to know Christ. You should be growing.

Now here's an important question: Are you further along in your walk with Christ today than you were when you first came to know Christ?

Now Paul gives us, in our text today, some instruction on ways we need to grow in Christ if we want to continue to walk in him.

*“So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him...”* Colossians 2.6

When Paul talks about continuing to live, or walk, in the same way we received Christ, he's talking about a walk of faith. He's talking about a walk in which we are constantly depending upon Christ, living by faith. It is in this context that Paul gives us four areas of growth as we follow Christ.

### **If We Are To Continue To Walk In Christ, We Must Grow DEEP In Our Relationship With Him.**

*“So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, **rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.**”*  
Colossians 2.6-7

*“Blessed is the man  
who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked  
or stand in the way of sinners  
or sit in the seat of mockers.  
But his delight is in the law of the LORD,  
and on his law he meditates day and night.  
He is like a tree planted by streams of water,  
which yields its fruit in season  
and whose leaf does not wither.  
**Whatever he does prospers.**”* Psalm 1.1-3

## Secondly, Continuing To Walk In Christ Means That We Must Grow UP.

*“So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and **built up** in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.”*

Colossians 2.6-7

*“For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.” 1 Corinthians 1.18*

*“By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should be careful how he builds. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man’s work. If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward. If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames.” 1 Corinthians 3.10-15*

## Thirdly, To Walk With God We’ve Got To Grow STRONG As Well.

*“So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, **strengthened** in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.”*

Colossians 2.6-7

## We Also Must Grow OUT.

*“So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and **overflowing with thankfulness.**”*

Colossians 2.6-7

### Core Competency: Giving Away My Faith

I give away my faith to fulfill God's purposes.

*“Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.” Ephesians 6.19-20*