

A lush green forest scene. In the foreground, several large, moss-covered tree roots are exposed on the ground, winding across the frame. The background is filled with tall, slender trees with dense green foliage, creating a thick canopy. Sunlight filters through the leaves, casting dappled light on the forest floor. The overall atmosphere is serene and natural.

Growing  
Spiritually

## 2 Peter 3:17-18 KJV

[17] Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own stedfastness. [18] But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

# Spiritual Growth Brings Discernment

## 1. We gain understanding and knowledge

### 1 Corinthians 12:8 KJV

For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;

### Psalms 119:66 KJV

Teach me good judgment and knowledge: for I have believed thy commandments.

### Proverbs 1:7 KJV

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

## 2. We are aware of deception.

### 2 Peter 3:3-4 KJV

[3] Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, [4] And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. [5] For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: [6] Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:

### 2 Peter 3:9-11 KJV

[9] The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. [10] But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. [11] Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,

### 2 Peter 3:16 KJV

As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.

## 3. Be on guard for deception.

### 1 Peter 5:8-9 KJV

[8] Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: [9] Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

# Spiritual Growth Fuels Our Faithfulness

1. When I'm growing, I'm useful to the lord.

## **1 Corinthians 1:26-29 KJV**

[26] For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called : [27] But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; [28] And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: [29] That no flesh should glory in his presence.

2. When I'm growing, I'm fruitful to the lord.

## **John 15:16 KJV**

Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

3. When I'm growing, I will not drift from my walk with the lord.

## **Psalms 119:9 KJV**

Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.

# Spiritual Growth is Centered in Christ

1. When I'm growing, I'm focused on the grace of Jesus Christ.
2. Grace triumphs over pride.
3. Grace that saves me.
4. Grace that keeps me.
5. Grow in the knowledge of Jesus Christ.

## **John 1:17 KJV**

For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.

## **1 John 4:14 KJV**

And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world.

## **Matthew 1:21 KJV**

And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

## **Acts 3:20 KJV**

And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: