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Everybody Wants To Grow But Nobody Wants To Change

(4 directions of a growing, godly life)

(SERIES: THE MAXWELL HOUSE SERIES: 02 of 03)
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"Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity, . . ." (Heb 6:1 NIV)

"If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because **HE WHO DOUBTS IS LIKE A WAVE OF THE SEA**, blown and tossed by the wind. That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does." (James 1:5-8 NIV)

Where are you right now?

You feel **diminished** because you are **in decline**.

You feel **apathetic** because you are **stagnated**.

You feel **overwhelmed** because you are **facing the forces of change**.

Living things grow.

Growing things change.

Why don't we change?

Change creates friction.

Friction creates fear.

Fear creates inertia.

We overestimate the importance of **comfort**.

We buy into the illusion of **control**.

"Look at the birds! They don't worry about what to eat--they don't need to sow or reap or store up food--for your heavenly Father feeds them. And you are far more valuable to him than they are. Will all your worries add a single moment to your life?" (Mat 6:26-27 TLB)

We just don't know **the way** or **the process** of growth.

"Any enterprise is built by wise planning, becomes strong through common sense, and profits wonderfully by keeping abreast of the facts. A wise man is mightier than a strong man. Wisdom is mightier than strength." (Prov 24:3-5 TLB)

The 4 directions of a growing, godly life

To be healthy we grow together in love.

"If anyone says, 'I love God,' yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother." (1 John 4:20-21 NIV)

"Just as there are many parts to our bodies, so it is with Christ's body. We are all parts of it, and it takes every one of us to make it complete, for we each have different work to do. So we belong to each other, and each needs all the others." (Rom 12:4-5 TLB)

To be healthy we grow up into Christ.

"Instead, we will lovingly follow the truth at all times--speaking truly, dealing truly, living truly--and so **BECOME MORE AND MORE IN EVERY WAY LIKE CHRIST WHO IS THE HEAD OF HIS BODY, THE CHURCH**. Under his direction, the whole body is fitted together perfectly, and each part in its own special way helps the other parts, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love." (Eph 4:15-16 TLB)

To be healthy we grow out through ministry.

"Some of us have been given special ability as apostles; to others he has given the gift of being able to preach well; some have special ability in winning people to Christ, helping them to trust him as their Savior; still others have a gift for caring for God's people as a shepherd does his sheep, leading and teaching them in the ways of God. Why is it that he gives us these special abilities to do certain things best? It is that God's people will be equipped to do better work for him, building up the Church, the body of Christ, to a position of strength and maturity; until finally we all believe alike about our salvation and about our Savior, God's Son, and all become full-grown in the Lord--yes, to the point of being filled full with Christ. Then we will no longer be like children, forever changing our minds about what we believe because someone has told us something different or has cleverly lied to us and made the lie sound like the truth." (Eph 4:11-14 TLB)

To be healthy we grow more through conversion.

"Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day. They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. **AND THE LORD ADDED TO THEIR NUMBER DAILY THOSE WHO WERE BEING SAVED.**" (Acts 2:41-47 NIV)