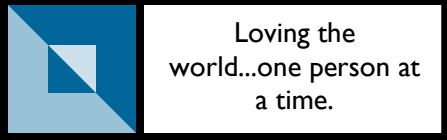


Growth of a Soul

How does the soul grow? Not all in a minute!
Now it may lose ground, and now it may win it;
Now it resolves, and again the will faileth;
Now it rejoiceth, and now it bewaileth;
Now its hopes fructify, then they are blighted;
Now it walks sullenly, now gropes benighted;
Fed by discouragement, taught by disaster;
So it goes forward, now slower, now faster,
Till all the pain is past, and failure made whole,
It is full grown, and the Lord rules the soul.

Susan Coolidge

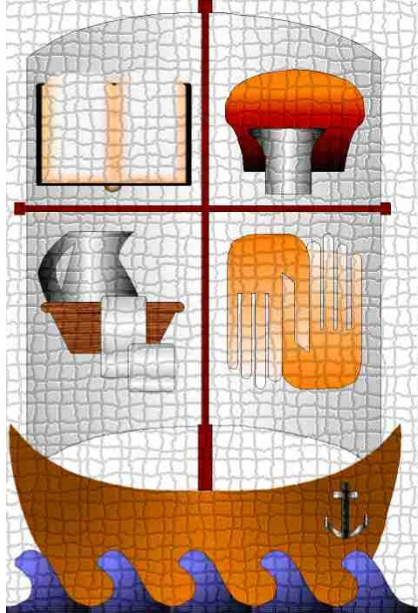
Personal Notes



Loving the world...one person at a time.

**You've Heard It Said:
Let go, and let God.**

2 Peter 1:3-4



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**You've Heard It Said:
Let go, and let God.**

2 Peter 1:3-4

This statement, let go and let God, is one that was popularized in the 1970's. The problem is that it seems to have taken root, and I still hear people saying this and similar things today. I understand the philosophy behind this statement, but I still think it does more harm than good.

It Begins With Faith

Faith = _____

Received = _____

Faith in _____

Faith involves _____

Faith involves _____

The strongest principle of growth lies in human choice.

George Eliot

Faith Requires Growth

Spiritual growth _____

Make _____

Make every effort _____

Supply these things:

Dead things cannot grow. Before there can be spiritual growth, there must be spiritual life. Drop a stone in the richest soil and it will be the same stone, years later. Drop a seed into the same soil and see life come forth!

George Sweeting

Growth Brings Results

Ineffective = _____

Unproductive = _____

Growth provides us with:

Making It Personal

The divine nature _____

Spiritual growth _____

We will know _____

*If God can make of an ugly seed,
With a bit of earth, and air
And dew and rain, sunshine and shade,
A flower so wondrous and fair,
What can He make of a soul like you,
With the Bible and faith and prayer,
And the Holy Spirit, if you do His will
And trust in His love and care?*

Author Unknown

Our spiritual growth is absolutely essential to our Christian walk. Without growth there may indeed be no life...for living things grow. Yes, we are saved through no good work of ourselves, but our growth does require good work. Yes, the Holy Spirit is there to aid in our growth, but we are told to add to our faith the characteristics that Peter described in 2 Peter 1:5-7. The only way I know to add these things into our character is to practice them in an ongoing manner until they become the habit of our life. Our spiritual life depends on this, especially as we face trials!