

Sunday January 5, 2020 Ted Cunningham

Series: How To Grow Your Faith

1 Peter 2:2-3 Peter talks about 'craving' spiritual growth. Would you say that you are 'craving' growth in Christ?

Hebrews 5:11-14 The people described here were sluggish in their faith. What does this passage say about why we are slow to grow or stalled out and aren't growing?

Hebrews 6:1 What does the author of Hebrews say we need to do to move on in our growth?

1 - We grow over time. Psalm 92:12-15

Is there a promise here about our future usefulness to God? Young people today want to succeed quickly, in months, not years. Ted emphasized that trees don't bear fruit in months. Does this apply to marriage as well? "Think in terms of years, not weeks or months."

2 - We grow with others. Hebrews 10:24-25

How are we doing in our church with growing together? Are we depending on Sunday morning alone or are we becoming self-feeders? "We grow where we're loved" (Bob Goff) Do you feel loved at WHFC?

Ephesians 4:11-16 What is God's purpose in encouraging us to keep growing up in Him?

3 - We grow through trials. James 1:2-5 What does this passage say about God's purpose in taking us through trials?

4 - We grow when pruned. Hebrews 12:1-2 Have you ever hesitated to prune back a tree or a rose bush? Pruning is a scary process, but how did Jesus endure what he went through for us and what was the end result that waited for him, . . . and for us? What are your feelings about this quote from Dr. Henry Cloud? "Getting to the next level always requires ending something, leaving it behind, and moving on. Growth itself demands that we move on. Without the ability to end things, people stay stuck, never becoming who they are meant to be." Reminding us of a recent sermon, Ted said, "If a toxic person has walked out of your life, work, small group or church in 2019, you now have more time, energy, resources and capacity to invest in others in 2020."

5 - We grow when encouraged. Ephesians 4:29 and Hebrews 3:13

We were reminded that we all have family and friends who tell us on a regular basis of our shortcomings, imperfections and inabilities. "Be the one who reminds people of their value, strengths and abilities." Are you that person, or trying to become that person?