




From faith to love #9

Effective and Fruitful Christian

Our Christian Journey...

- ▶ Christian life is a Journey of Growth





And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to **equip** the saints for the work of ministry, for **building up** the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the **knowledge** of the Son of God, to **mature manhood**, to the measure of the stature of the **fullness of Christ**, so that we may **no longer be children**, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to **grow up** in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is **equipped**, when each part is working properly, makes the body **grow** so that it **builds itself up in love**. (Eph. 4:11-16)

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 - ▶ our relationship with **others** (brotherly affection, love)
- ▶ God has given us a road map of growth (2 Peter 1:3-10)
- ▶ We are fully **blessed** for this journey of growth (v.3-4)
- ▶ And this path of growth is a natural (normal) one—a path that requires **change**

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➤ Goodness (**admiring** Jesus)
attributes

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➤ The opposite of self-centeredness—to see others first
(Phil 2:1-5)



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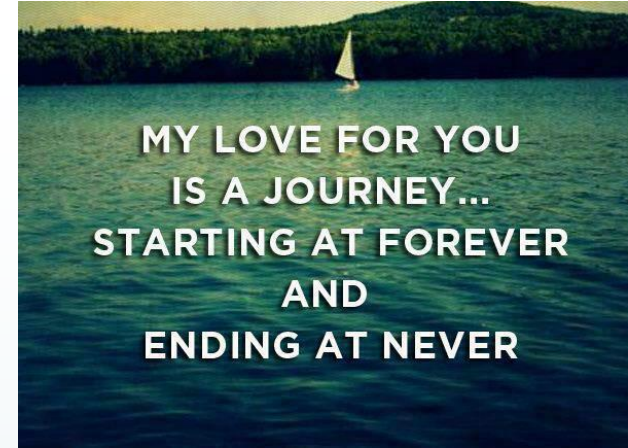
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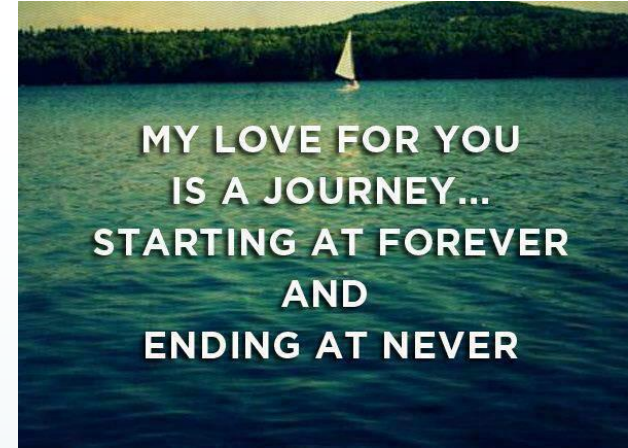
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- Healthy emotions will grow as we grow in our **commitment** to the person, and as our **behaviors** mature as well

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4 Final Thoughts...

*For if these qualities are (1) **yours** and are (2) **increasing**, they keep you from being (3) **ineffective** or (4) **unfruitful** in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Peter 1:8)*

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- You are responsible for your growth (i.e. 10 years)



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 - ▶ Are you growing in your godly characters (i.e. habits)?

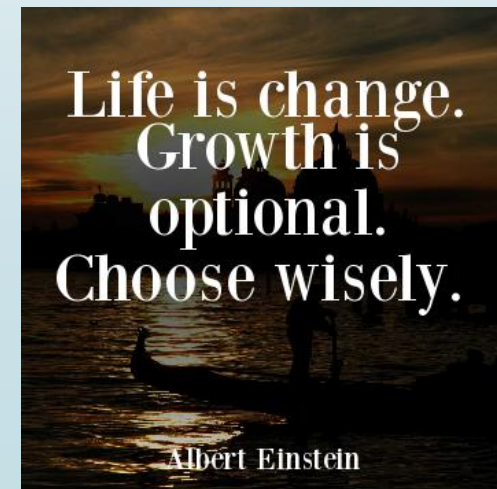


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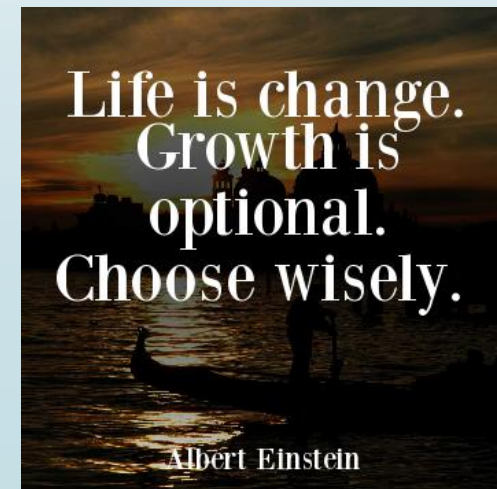


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- but sadly, we all have met people that have not changed in the past 10 or 20 years...but is that person you?



3. Be a Fruitful Christian



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- ▶ Which one of these are you lacking? Why?

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 - ▶ (ill: empty church buildings) Why is that so?
 - ▶ A growing church is **filled with growing believers**. As we grow and change, our church will become more effective and fruitful as well

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- Why? It is a matter of direction—a matter of **walking**
- Which direction are you walking toward?

*For if these qualities are **yours** and are **increasing**, they keep you from being **ineffective** or **unfruitful** in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ...for if you **practice** these qualities you will never fall. (2 Peter 1:8, 10b)*