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Principles of Christian Growth

Section Two: The Means of Christian Growth – How do we do it?

Lesson Two: We grow by using God's Word.

Bible Reading: Psalm 1; 2 Tim. 3:10-17; 1 Pet. 2:1-3.

The nourishments of water, sun, and soil come together to enable plants to grow properly. Newborn babies need to sleep, and they need to eat. At times, their need to eat will take precedence over both their own and their parents' need to sleep. That nourishment is very important to them. Peter uses that analogy to encourage believers to desire the nourishment of the Bible so that they can grow properly: "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: if so be that ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious" (1 Pet. 2:2-3).

Discussion questions:

1. In each of the passages referenced above, the context begins with something that will dampen our desire for the nourishment of God's Word (Ps. 1:1, 2 Tim. 3:13, 1 Pet. 2:1). List those things, and tell how they can discourage us from using the Bible to grow.
2. Using God's Word as the nourishment we need to grow in Christ means that we must read it, but our passages mention more than merely reading it. What else must we do with the Word of God to use it properly to grow in grace (Ps. 1:2, 2 Tim. 3:14-17, 1 Pet. 2:2-3)?
3. What makes the Bible such a force of Christian growth (Ps. 19:7, 2 Tim. 3:16, Heb. 4:12)?
4. What results are promised to the life that takes seriously the nourishment of the Word of God (Ps. 1:3, 2 Tim. 3:17, 1 Pet. 2:3)?