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## Principles of Christian Growth

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

#### Lesson Ten: We grow through the promise of reward.

Bible Reading: Matt. 25:14-30; 1 Cor. 3:6-23; 1 Cor. 9:23-27; Phil. 4:1; 1 Thess. 2:19; 2 Tim. 4:8; Jam. 1:12; 1 Pet. 5:4; Rev. 2:10; 4:10-11.

We have come to the last of our discussions about how to grow in Christ. Abiding in Christ, reading God's Word, prayer, confession of sin, the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Table, ministry in the local church, God's discipline, and suffering all play a role in our spiritual growth in grace. The Bible also mentions the importance of a promised reward to our lives as believers. These promises help us grow by providing the right motivation for faithful service.

#### Discussion questions:

1. Our Lord Jesus taught His disciples the parable of the talents to help them grow in grace (Matt. 25:14-30). What talents have we been given to invest for the Lord (vv. 14-15), and what is the desired yield on that investment (vv. 16-17, 19-23)? Why did one servant go unrewarded (vv. 18, 24-30)?
2. Paul spoke of a day in which the nature of the believer's works shall be made manifest (1 Cor. 3:13-15). Some work is like gold, silver, and precious stones that can stand the test of God's judgment (v. 12a). Other is like wood, hay, and stubble that cannot (v. 12b). The materials in question build a building on the foundation, Jesus Christ (v. 11). What is the building, and what does this say about what our work must be if we want to receive the rewards mentioned here (vv. 9-10, 16-17)?
3. Crowns are available for believers (1 Cor. 9:23-25; Phil. 4:1; 1 Thess. 2:19; 2 Tim. 4:8; Jam. 1:12; 1 Pet. 5:4; Rev. 2:10). How are they achieved, and what happens to them in the end (Rev. 4:10-11)?