

STAGES OF GROWTH SERIES NOTES

(Aug. 22 – Oct. 3, 2021)

(Continuing in Ephesians, vs. 4:11-16)

Speaking the truth – *ALETHEUO* (al-ayth-yoo'-o), (literally “truthing”)

- Speaking reality (truth) into a person's life, making a record of what God deems is truth (reality, fact)

Aletheuo (literally, “to truth”) includes spirit- led confrontation where it is vital to tell the truth so others can live in God's reality rather than personal illusion. (key-God's reality)

“Speaking the truth (truthing) in love”

The phrase “in love” qualifies how we are to speak the truth and why we are to speak the truth. “In love” is added as the element in which the action (believer “speaking truth”) must take place. It is not to be a “speaking the truth” as an unbridled fiat (a decree), but it should be, if it is to be received, tempered by a spirit of meekness. (Gal. 6:1)

“Brothers, if anyone is caught in any sin, you who are spiritual [that is, you who are responsive to the guidance of the Spirit] are to restore such a person in a spirit of gentleness [not with a sense of superiority or self-righteousness], keeping a watchful eye on yourself, so that you are not tempted as well.” (Gal. 6:1 AMP)

- “Truth spoken without love is brutal.”
- “Love spoken without truth is hypocrisy and deceit.”

“Fault – *parap'toma* – A side slip (lapse or deviation) from truth that is (unintentional) error or willful transgression

Example: David and Bathsheba

Ephesians 4:15,16 NKJV

¹⁵ But, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head— Christ—

¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.”

STAGES OF GROWTH SERIES NOTES

(Aug. 22 – Oct. 3, 2021)

Into – *eis* (ice) – Not only are we to grow into resemblance to Him (grow according to His example), but it means that He is the source **from** which the grace and power comes that makes it possible for us **to grow**. He, therefore, is also the object and goal to which our growth in its every stage must look and is to be directed...

Stages of Growth

Brephos – unborn child

Nepios - nursing baby, cannot speak

Paidion - teenager - start learning who the Father/daddy is & isn't

Teknon – Starting to take on the Father's business, trained apprentice

Huios - Exemplifying the character of the Father

Neankos - young man (strong), or overcomer

Teleios – full grown, mature man conformed to the image of Jesus in the earth

2 Corinthians 3:18

Galatians 2:20

Romans 8:29

Romans 12:2

Colossians 3:10

2 Peter 1:4

See Proverbs 30:26 (Psalm 104:18)

You are the only "Christ" some people will ever see. (Ex. Coney or rock hyrax – exceedingly wise because he makes his home in the rocks). He recharges himself in the sunlight, sitting on a rock.

- The coney looks just like the rock.
- The coney hides himself in the rock. "He that dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall ABIDE under the shadow of the Almighty."
- We should be the example of Christ in the earth.
- I am a disciple, a talmidim, I imitate God/Jesus in the earth.
- We who are in Christ have an armor of light, we are children of light. Light doesn't bother us. We are the light of the world!
- Matt. 7:24; Deu. 32:3; Psalm 18:2, 18:31; Psalm 62:6, 94:22, 91:1

STAGES OF GROWTH SERIES NOTES

(Aug. 22 – Oct. 3, 2021)

Jesus did not arrogantly show off His preeminence. He followed a righteous pattern to exhibit heaven on earth.

Follow the Pattern:

- Jesus walks on water (Matt. 14:22-27) “of little faith” - oligopistos - a short burst of faith
- Jesus feeds 5000 men (John 6:4-14)
- Jesus casts out demon (Matt. 17:14-21)
- Jesus curses the fig tree (Mark 11:20-24)
- Demons subject to the Name of Jesus (Luke 10:17-20)
- Jesus calms the storm (Mark 4:36-41)
- Jesus gives the commission (Mark 16:17, 18)
- Peter makes convincing statement (1 Pet. 2:21)

Jesus always intended for us (the Church – Ekklesia) to do the work He started and taught in the Scriptures. (Isa. 4:17; Acts 4:13)

Acts 2:22

“Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know—”

Approved/Attested – *apodeiknumi* (ap-od-ike'-noo-mee) – To show off, that is, to exhibit; fig. to demonstrate

Apo' – denotes separation/departure

Deiknyo (dike-noo'-o) – To show, expose to the eyes, to give evidence or proof of a thing, to show by words or teach

The Church – *Ekklesia* - Those that are “called out” to God who are in the fellowship of His Salvation, to bring Heaven to Earth and to establish public policy. (Psalm 115:16, 119:89; Matt. 6:10)

“Forever oh Lord, Thy Word is settled in heaven.”

Revelation 1:16, 2:12 – Two-edged sword

“He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength.”

- In medieval wartime, the sword or the weapon of offence was always in the hand of the warrior. But here, the weapon of Jesus is in His mouth!
- Isaiah 11:4

“But with righteousness He shall judge the poor,
And decide with equity for the meek of the earth;

STAGES OF GROWTH SERIES NOTES

(Aug. 22 – Oct. 3, 2021)

He shall strike the earth with the **rod of His mouth**,
And **with the breath of His lips** He shall slay the wicked.”

“Two-edged” – *distomos* – *dis* = two or twice / *stoma* = the mouth

- Thus, with these words forming a compound word, it means and describes something that is **“two-mouthed”**

Ephesians 6:17 – Calls it the “Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.”

- The term **“Word”** in the passage is the Greek word *“Rhema,”* which describes something that is spoken clearly, vividly, in unmistakable terms and undeniable language.
- *Rhema* carries the idea of a “quickened word,” unlike *logos* which has more to do with an “idea.” (John 1:1)

Example: As you meditate on the Word, spending time with the Lord...a problem arises (financial, physical, family, etc.). The Holy Spirit (who brings back to your remembrance things He’s spoken to you), quickens a word in your spirit...

That quickened Word that was deposited in your spirit as a result of what you have been meditating on, comes out of your spirit when that Word is spoken; you give that Word an agreeing voice, or the second edge of that two-edged sword.

God has already said it, now you say it! You have now received a Word that came right out of the mouth of God (the written Word).

When you say what God has already said, that word becomes a dagger in the heart of that problem and also cuts right through natural logic.

When you receive a Word in your heart, but refuse to speak it, that sword is a one-edged sword and it remains inactive. But when you speak it... (see Luke 4:1-13)

** Rev. Tyus example

This is the ultimate act of agreement! (Matt. 18:9)

The Word of God is nigh you, even in your mouth, the word of faith which we speak.

*See Joshua 14:6-15 (& Number 13:6) - Caleb inherits Hebron

Ephesians 4:16

“From whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.”

STAGES OF GROWTH SERIES NOTES

(Aug. 22 – Oct. 3, 2021)

Paul uses the analogy of a human head and a human body to illustrate the relation of Jesus, who is Lord, as the Head of the Body, Ekklesia, or the Church...and each Believer being a member of His Body.

Jesus, as the Head of the Church, is the source and well-being of each Believer in respect to all stages of growth.

Fitly joined together – *sunarmologeo* (3 parts)

Sun - togetherness, cooperation and partnership

Armos - A medical term for physical joint

Logos - To frame or to specify (A thought framed → Word)

- The compound word is “a joint that works in conjunction with another specified joint.”
- In other words, these two joints are made to function with each other.
- When they work as in concert, the results are extraordinary!

Compacted / Knit – *sumbibad’zo* – To unite or knit together: in affection, to put together in one’s mind, to gather, conclude, consider, to cause a person to unite with one in a conclusion or come to the same opinion.

- This word describes the sinews and ligaments that hold all the joints together and cause them to function as a single unit.
- These sinews and ligaments are essential to keep all the joints held securely in their places to do their proper job of providing motion and mobility.

Every joint – *haphé* (haf-ay’) should be translated, “every part,” that is every member of the Body of Christ.

- Every person (Believer) has a specific place where he/she is to be joined and is to work in cooperation with other parts of the Body.
- Every single member, every part, of the Body of Christ is to work in cooperation with its other parts. (Team experience)

Supply / Supplieth – *epichoregeo* (ep-ee-khor-ayg-ee-o)

- When every member of the Body of Christ is properly connected to other members and working correctly, “a supernatural, lavish supply of divine energy is activated to fully accomplish the purposes of God.”

According to the “effectual working” – *energia* – Effectual, efficient working

- This refers to divine energy. It’s a supernatural ability to get something done.

Every part – *en metro* – in measure

- A limited portion.

STAGES OF GROWTH SERIES NOTES

(Aug. 22 – Oct. 3, 2021)

- Every person has his part, his measure, or his contribution.

Also, he (the Believer or member of the Body of Christ) can only do his part in measure alongside the other members to whom he is joined.

“Start where you are, use what you have, and do what you can!”

Four things on the earth are small, but are exceedingly wise:

The Ant - Preparation

The Locusts - Cooperation

The Coney - Location

The Lizard - Determination / Dedication

Gen. 15:1-14, 17:1ff, 18:1ff (Read)

Abraham has two sons: Ishmael and Isaac. Ishmael is technically the first born; however, he is born of the Egyptian handmaiden Hagar, which was not God’s plan. Instead, it was a plan contrived of reason and of the flesh.

Gen. 17 – God appears to Abram and reiterates/restates the promise (covenant) that He is to have a son by his wife Sarai (the son of promise); then by covenant ritual, God changes their names, inserting part of His name in theirs.

God (YHWH) inserts the “Hey” in their names; thus, they go from:

Abram to Abraham - High Father to Father of Many

Sarai to Sarah - (Dominative to Noblewoman) – Mother of Nations

And God became:

“The God of Abraham”

Gen. 17:18 – Abraham (now considering His and Sarah’s age) falls to the ground, laughs and suggests that Ishmael be the one to walk uprightly before God. But God blatantly responds, “NO!”

The promise was that Sarah was to bear the promised child (vs. 15 & 16) and that his name shall be called “Isaac.”

In chapter 18:9ff, Sarah also laughs at the idea of her having a child in her advanced years and having “pleasure” after reaching ninety.

Gen. 22 – Abraham offers Isaac on Mt. Moriah at God’s request, but God substitutes a ram in Isaac’s place (A ram was caught in the thickets by its horns). Abraham calls the name of that place “Jehovah Jereh (in the mount of the Lord it shall be seen – the Lord will provide).

STAGES OF GROWTH SERIES NOTES

(Aug. 22 – Oct. 3, 2021)

Chapter 26 – God reiterates the covenants to Isaac (vs. 1-5) – says again

Chapters 24-28 – Isaac now takes Rebekah as his wife and has twin boys, Jacob and Esau.

- The 1st born son is to receive the birthright, which includes the blessing of the Father and the inheritance.
- Esau is the firstborn, but despises his birthright by devaluing its importance to that of a pot of lentils, and sells it to Jacob his brother.

Chapter 27 – Jacob (whose name means deceiver and trickster) deceives his father Isaac, in his old age, into believing he (Jacob) was really Esau and steals the blessing of the firstborn (with the help of Rebekah his mother).

To keep from being killed by Esau, Jacob runs and leaves home, heading to his uncle's Laban's house.

On his way, Jacob finds a place to rest using a stone for a pillow. He then dreams of a ladder from earth to heaven with angels descending and ascending. God then again restates and speaks to him concerning the covenant to his fathers (God is still speaking) Gen. 28:1-15

Bible Study Notes – Sept. 19, 2021

Ephesians 4:11-17 – Continuing on in our study of the Stages of Growth

Genesis 22 – Set Yourself in Agreement with God!

Abraham (Gen. 22) is showing us what it means to stay in agreement with God despite what you will go through in life.

God has created us in His image and after His likeness and has given us dominion over the creation of His hands. This means that we are a direct product of His imagination.

The Apostle Paul prayed in Eph. 1 that God would give us the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him...and that the eyes of our understanding or heart would be enlightened or flooded with light so we would know or become intimately acquainted with the hope of His calling or the hope God had in His heart when He called us.

We can also say that acceptance of His invitation.

God the Father, He who possesses the innate power to sustain Himself, knows the path that is set before every person ever created...and along with that path, give us the enablement to successfully live and overcome every obstacle we will ever face, if we trust and agree with Him.

Even though He is all powerful, omniscient, omnipresent, along with being ubiquitous, being everywhere at the same time (which includes the past, present and future), He has given us a will which

STAGES OF GROWTH SERIES NOTES

(Aug. 22 – Oct. 3, 2021)

is influenced by our environment, our experience, credible others whom we allow to speak into our life, and repetitious information. God, although He is all powerful, will not usurp authority over our own free will. He has limited Himself to work within the framework of how He has designed us to function to develop us. (Dr. I. V. Hilliard)

Our adversary, the devil, will attempt to seduce us by diabolically using the same factors that God loving uses to develop us. The enemy of our souls will inject perversion into our experience, try to force trauma into our environment and, if he can get away with it, our credible others will feed us ungodly council, causing us to stand in the way of sinners, and sit in the seat of the scornful [lūts (loots) – Heb. 3887 – to make mouths at – to talk wrong) and try to do it all repetitiously, causing us to default on our God-given destiny.

Because Satan knows, “What a fool believes he sees, no wise man has the power to reason away!”

Now the Bible says, “Abraham called the name of that place “Jehovah Jireh.”

- Jireh is a transliteration of the Hebrew verb “Ra ah” (pronounced “Raw-aw”), which means “to see, perceive, have vision, consider, to be seen, to gaze at, and even to appear.”
- Translation – the process of translating words or texts from one language to another (the meaning)
 - Laisse rouler le bon temps! → Let the good times roll!
- Transliteration – The act of writing or printing (a letter or a word) using the closest corresponding letters of a different alphabet or script.
 - Such as the name:
 - James → Diego
 - Joshua → Jehoshua, Hosea, Jesus

Genesis. 22:14

“And Abraham called the name of that place Jehovah Jireh: as it is said to this day, In the mount of the Lord it shall be seen.” (KJV)

And Abraham named that place ^[a]The Lord Will Provide, as it is said to this day, “On the mountain of the Lord it will ^[b]be provided.” (NASB)

“And Abraham called the name of that place, “Lord Jehovah will appear” of which it is said today, “In this mountain Lord Jehovah will appear.” (Aramaic Bible in Plain English)

“And Abraham called the name of that place, the Lord hath seen; that they might say today, in the mount of the Lord was seen.” (Brenton Septuagint Translation)

“And Abraham calls the name of that place, “YHWH-Jireh” because it is said this day in the mountain, “YHWH provides.” (Lit. Standard Version)

STAGES OF GROWTH SERIES NOTES

(Aug. 22 – Oct. 3, 2021)

“and Abraham calleth the name of that place `Jehovah-Jireh,' because it is said this day in the mount, `Jehovah doth provide.’” (YLT)

See John 8:48-58

Now, what does “Jireh” have to do with “provide?”

- Both English words “see” and “provide” are used to translate one Hebrew word: Jireh.
 - Why do we translate this word “Provide?”
1. With God, “to see” is also to “foresee.” As one who possesses all knowledge and all wisdom; He is Elohim, from everlasting to everlasting, eternity past, eternity present, and eternity future. He knows the end from the beginning. (Isaiah 46:10)
 2. Another word for seeing is “vision,” from the Latin word “video” – “to see.” Thus with God, foreseeing is pre-vision. Therefore, as Jehovah the God of Covenant, which entails righteousness, sanctification, and redemption, having pre-vision of man’s sin, fall, and need, Jesus became the Lamb slain before the foundation of the world. Thus, He makes provision for that need!

Provide – Pro (before) – vide (to see)

God has already seen the need beforehand and supplied for that need before you even knew you needed it.

Sept. 26, 2021

Review Gen., chapters 24-28

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STAGES OF GROWTH SERIES NOTES

(Aug. 22 – Oct. 3, 2021)

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Jacob later marries two sisters, Rachel and Leah. He has 12 sons by them (and their handmaidens) that eventually becomes the Twelve Tribes of Israel.

Joseph

Of the 12 sons, Reuben is the oldest and was to receive the birthright, but disqualifies himself by sleeping with his father's concubine. Thus, the birthright fell to Joseph, who was the oldest child by Rachel.

Joseph had two (2) dreams (Covenant):

1. Binding of the sheaves
2. Sun, moon and eleven stars

God in keeping His covenant with Abraham, is showing that He can work all things together for our good. (Despite what we go through!)

Because of envy and jealousy, Joseph's brothers sold him into slavery in Egypt, they sold him for 20 shekels of silver, took his "coat of many colors" and dipped it in goats blood, and led their father Jacob to believe that a wild beast had killed him.

But, the hand of God was on Joseph!

Joseph was sold into slavery, falsely accused, imprisoned, and forgotten about, but because of the covenant God made with Abraham, God caused Joseph to rise from the prison to the palace.

Joseph was given Asenath, daughter of an Egyptian priest, for a wife and she bore him two sons:

1. Manasseh – For God has caused me to forget all my toil and all my father's house.
2. Ephraim – For God has caused me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction.

The cause of Joseph's promotion was the interpretation of Pharaoh's dream of a coming famine. Joseph gave the meaning of the dreams (two) and a plan to preserve Egypt.

Acts 7:9,10

"And the patriarchs, becoming envious, sold Joseph into Egypt; But God was with him "and delivered him out of all his troubles, and gave him favor and wisdom in the presence of pharaoh, king of Egypt, and made him governor over Egypt and all his house."

Then comes the famine....

STAGES OF GROWTH SERIES NOTES

(Aug. 22 – Oct. 3, 2021)

Read Genesis 41:53-57

“When Jacob saw that there was grain in Egypt, Jacob said to his sons, “Why do you look at one another?”

And he said, “Indeed I have heard that there is grain in Egypt; go down to that place and buy for us there, that we may live and not die.”

So Joseph’s ten brothers went down to buy grain in Egypt. But Jacob did not send Joseph’s brother Benjamin with his brothers, for he said, “Lest some calamity befall him.”

And the sons of Israel went to buy grain among those who journeyed, for the famine was in the land of Canaan.

Read vs. 6-9a

After a few twists, Joseph reveals himself to his brothers. They weep and reconcile and Joseph forgives them. (see Gen. 45:13-28)

Gen. 46:1-4

“So Israel took his journey with all he had, and came to Beersheba, and offered sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac. Then God spoke to Israel in the visions of the night, and said, “Jacob, Jacob!” And he said, “Here am I.”

So He said, “I am God, the God of your father; do not fear to go down to Egypt, for I will make you a great nation there.

I will go down with you to Egypt, and I will also surely bring you up again; and Joseph will put his hand on your eyes.”

Years later...Joseph dies (Gen. 50:22-26)

Exodus 1:8

“Now there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. And he said to this people, “Look, the people of the children of Israel are more and mightier than we; Come let us deal shrewdly with them, lest they multiply, and it happen, in the event of war, that they also join our enemies and fight against us and so go up out of the land.”

Acts 7:18 –

“But when the time of the promise drew near which God had Sworn to Abraham, the people grew and multiplied in Egypt till **another** king arose who did not know Joseph.”

- Another – “*heteros*” = different kind
- Another – “*allos*” = same kind (Matt. 13:24) (John 14:16-17)

STAGES OF GROWTH SERIES NOTES

(Aug. 22 – Oct. 3, 2021)

- Isaiah 52:4 – “My people went down at first into Egypt to dwell there, then the Assyrian oppressed them without cause.”
- For 430 years Israel was in bondage.

(The first time at Canaan) – Numbers 13

(The second time at Canaan) – Joshua 14

Caleb = dog, whole-hearted (Ka’ leb’)

Peace – (Heb. - *Shalom*) – Lit. “He who destroys the authority that establishes chaos.”