

Message Four

**The Urgent Need of the Growth of Life  
and  
Growing Up into Christ in All Things**

Scripture Reading: 1 Cor. 3:6-7; Eph. 4:13, 15-16

**I. Among us in the Lord's recovery, there is an urgent need of the growth of life; if we lack the growth of life, there will be no way for the recovery to go on, and eventually we will drift back into the situation of Christianity and become a repetition of the sad history of Christianity—Eph. 4:11-16; Matt. 13:31-33; 2 Tim. 3:1-4:**

A. The most significant thing with life is growth—Eph. 4:13, 15-16:

1. The growth of life is the primary matter in the practice of the church life—1 Cor. 1:2; 3:1, 6-7; 14:20.
2. We should pay attention to the growth of life—Eph. 4:13, 15-16.

B. We need to know what the growth of life is:

1. The growth of life is the increase of the element of God within us until we are filled unto all the fullness of God—3:19.
2. The growth of life is the increase of the measure of the stature of Christ; the more we love Christ and pursue Christ, allowing Christ to live in us and to gain us, the more the measure of the stature of Christ will increase within us; this is the real growth of life—Gal. 2:20; 4:19; Eph. 3:17; 4:13.
3. The growth of life is the expanding of the ground of the Holy Spirit within us; when we pursue the working of the Holy Spirit within us and obey the teaching of the Holy Spirit within us as the anointing, the Holy Spirit can expand His ground extensively, and thus the divine life within us will grow to a great extent—Rom. 8:11; Eph. 5:18; 1 John 2:20, 27.
4. The growth of life is the decrease of the human element, that is, the decrease of the flavor of man and the increase of the flavor of God—Matt. 16:25; John 12:25.
5. The growth of life is the breaking of the natural life, that is, the breaking of our skills, ability, and capacity; if we desire to grow in life, our gifts must be stripped by God, and our shell of godliness and piety must be broken by God—2 Cor. 4:16-17.
6. The growth of life is the subduing of every part of the soul; the more our soul is subdued, the more life grows; and the more our soul decreases, the more life increases—John 12:24-25.

C. We all need to go to the Lord and have direct contact with Him purposely and particularly concerning the growth of life; if we do this, something within us will be killed and eliminated, and the growth of life will come—Psa. 36:9.

**II. In order to arrive at a full-grown man for the fulfillment of God's purpose, we need to grow up into Christ in all things—Eph. 4:15-16, 24:**

A. We all need to grow up into Christ in all things, that is, in every single thing, whether big or small—v. 15:

1. There are still many things in which we have not grown up into Christ; in these things we are not in Christ but are outside of Christ.
  2. When we all grow up into Christ in all things, we all will be one in Christ; this is the universal one new man—v. 24.
- B. Ephesians 4:15 says that we grow up into the Head; the word *Head* here indicates that our growth in life by the increase of Christ should be the growth of the members of the Body under the Head.
- C. To grow in life is to grow with the growth of God; this means that true growth is the increase of God, the addition of God—Col. 2:19.
- D. Ephesians 4 speaks of the perfecting of the new man through the growth of life:
1. In Ephesians 2:15 we see the creation of the new man organically; in 4:13-16 we see the perfecting of the new man in relation to his function.
  2. The organically perfect new man needs to be perfected through the growth of life in order to function in a proper way—vv. 13, 15, 24:
    - a. The more the new man grows through receiving the proper nourishment, the more he will function normally.
    - b. The growth into Christ in verse 15 equals the putting on of the new man in verse 24.
- E. Growing up into Christ in all things is for the practical existence and function of the universal one new man—v. 24.