

## MIRACLE GROW

### 2. GROWING IN CHRIST

*Eph 4:13 ...that we will be mature and full grown in the Lord, measuring up to the full stature of Christ.*

*Eph 4:15-16 Instead, **speaking the truth in love**, we will in all things **grow up into him** who is the Head, that is, Christ.*

*16 From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, **as each part does its work**.*

- Speaking the truth in love
- Grow up into Him
- As each part does its work

### **Growing spiritually**

*1 Peter 2:2-3 Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.*

*Col 2:19 He has lost connection with the Head, from whom the whole body, supported and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows as God causes it to grow.*

*2 Peter 3:18 But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*

## **The call to maturity**

*Eph 4:11-13 It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, 12 to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up 13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. NIV*

*Col 4:12 Epaphras, who is one of you and a servant of Christ Jesus, sends greetings. He is always wrestling in prayer for you, that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured.*

*Heb 5:14 But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.*

*James 1:4 Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.*

## **Growing in Christ**

*(NLT) Eph 4:13 until we come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature and full grown in the Lord, measuring up to the **full stature of Christ.***

*2 Peter 1:4-12 Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.*

*5 For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge;*

*6 and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness;*

*7 and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love.*

### *The "add-ons"*

- 1. Faith*
- 2. Goodness*
- 3. Knowledge*
- 4. Self-control*
- 5. Perseverance*
- 6. Godliness*
- 7. Brotherly kindness*
- 8. love*

➤ *Effective and productive*

*8 For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

➤ *Nearsighted and blind - forgetful*

*9 But if anyone does not have them, he is nearsighted and blind, and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins.*

➤ *Calling and election sure*

*10 Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never fall,*

➤ *Eternal kingdom*

*11 and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*

*12 So I will always remind you of these things, even though you know them and are firmly established in the truth you now have.*

## *The Fruit of the Spirit*

*Gal 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.*

### **Add-ons (8)**

### **Fruit (8)**

*Faith*

*Goodness*

*Knowledge*

*Self-control*

*Perseverance*

*Godliness*

*Brotherly kindness*

*love*

*Goodness*

*Self-control*

*Patience*

*Gentleness*

*Kindness*

*love,*

*Peace*

*Joy*

### **Growth in suffering**

*Rom 5:3-5 Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance ;*

*4 perseverance , character; and character, hope.*

*5 And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.*

*Perseverance*  
*Character*  
*Hope*

### ***Growing in love***

*1 Cor 13:4-8 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.*

*5 It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.*

*6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.*

*7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.*

*8 Love never fails.*

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|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <i>1. Patience</i>      | <i>patient</i>                  |
| <i>2. Kindness</i>      | <i>kind</i>                     |
| <i>3. generosity</i>    | <i>not envious</i>              |
| <i>4. Meekness</i>      | <i>not boastful</i>             |
| <i>5. Humility</i>      | <i>not proud</i>                |
| <i>6. Courtesy</i>      | <i>not rude</i>                 |
| <i>7. Self-denial</i>   | <i>not self-seeking</i>         |
| <i>8. Self-control</i>  | <i>not easily angered</i>       |
| <i>9. Graciousness</i>  | <i>no record of wrong</i>       |
| <i>10. Virtue</i>       | <i>does not delight in evil</i> |
| <i>11. Vigilance</i>    | <i>always protects</i>          |
| <i>12. Trust</i>        | <i>always trusts</i>            |
| <i>13. Hope</i>         | <i>always hopes</i>             |
| <i>14. Perseverance</i> | <i>always perseveres</i>        |