**Lesson 5 is entitled: Does it Matter: If I grow or develop as a Christian?**

1. God’s Word provides us with many examples and analogies of growth and development. It also provides us feedback on how this growth and development can be hindered.
   1. In Peter epistles, he addresses those Christians in Asia Minor. These Christians, like us today possess a varying degree of maturity regarding Christ. Read 1 Peter 2:1-3
   2. Consider our level of maturity in Christ. Consider those who are still immature. Read Hebrews 5:11-14; Hebrews 6:1-3
   3. Consider those moments of stagnation in our life and why we fail to grow.
2. Why should we grow?
   1. To grow into maturity and to fight against sin in our life.
      1. Ephesians 4:13-16
      2. John 15:5
   2. To be faithful and fruitful.
      1. Matthew 13, parable of the sower (good soil).
      2. There is a point in time where we should be teaching the Word and helping others; Hebrews 5:12-13.
3. What is needed for growth?
   1. Food is needed
      1. John 6:27-35
      2. 2 Peter 3:17-18
   2. We must exercise ourselves towards godliness; 1 Timothy 4:7-8.
4. How would we view a town that never grew? We must grow spiritually.
   1. We must certainly look at our lives to see if we are growing in Christ.
   2. Sometimes our growth in Christ may be hard to see but consider whether we are producing good fruit.
      1. Consider if we ever step outside of our comfort zone.
         1. Perhaps song leading, or leading on the Lord’s Supper
         2. Talking to others about Christ, visiting the sick, etc.
      2. Are we making the effort to grow or are we content with just staying where we are spiritually?
   3. We must all grow and develop in order to be effective workers for God.