

Oak Hills Baptist Church
Sermon Title: Grow – Becoming What God Created and
Intended Us to Be
By Pastor Kimlyn J. Bender
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Sermon Summary

What does it mean to grow "in Christ?" In his letter to the Colossians, Paul shares his prayer that the Colossians would grow in "the knowledge of God's will," and that in that knowledge, which brings wisdom and discernment, that they might grow to live a life pleasing to God. The relationship of knowledge of God and his will, the life we are to live, and the fruit we are to bear, are all closely related.

1. Launching

* Any initial thoughts or questions from Sunday's sermon?

2. Read the passage

Colossians 1:1-14; Acts 2:42

3. Diving into the Text

Paul's letter to the church at Colossae presents a pattern for spiritual growth. His prayer is different than what we often offer and/or hear today.

- How does a heart of thanksgiving help us as we speak to, hear from, and respond to God?
- When Paul prays for the Colossians, what is his main request of God?

The knowledge of God's will is related to both who God is and about what God is doing in our own lives.

- In our walk with God, are we still seeking to learn about Him or do we find ourselves becoming self-focused?

- How can learning more about who God is grow our faith? Is this something we find ourselves praying for?

God wants us to grow in the knowledge of His will so that we can live a life worthy of Him and so that we can please Him in every way.

Paul gives four outcomes of such a life:

- 1) **Bearing fruit in every good work**
- 2) **Growing in the knowledge of God**
- 3) **Being strengthened with power according to His might so that we might have great endurance and patience**
- 4) **Joyfully giving thanks to God the Father**

- Which of these do you see reflected in your life?
- Which can you ask God to help grow you in?

Pastor Kimlyn talked about not discounting a child-like faith and about growing out of our spiritual childishness into mature spiritual wisdom and understanding.

- What does mature spiritual wisdom look like? How do we mature spiritually?
- Can you see times in your life where you have taken "solid" food instead of "milk"?

4. Responding & Prayer

Paul's prayer for the Colossian church demonstrates his concern for the character of the believers.

As you pray for those around you, for yourself, and for those in our church body this week, consider Paul's model given to us in this Colossians 1. Pray that God will fill our lives with the knowledge of His will and that He will grow our faith in Him.