

MEANS OF GROWTH. 1 Peter 2:1-3.

1. We have here the idea of spiritual growth:
  1. Growth implies life. Only living things can grow.
  2. Growth implies that the present life, in some measure, is immature.
  3. Also growth implies that it is natural for life to progress.

*4. Christian Growth in Christian Control.*

2. If there is to be spiritual growth there must be the avoidance of what is antagonistic to such growth. Here Peter names 5 things which must be avoided:

1. Malice: *1 John 4:20*

Resentment of real or fancied injuries. You are angry and determined to have revenge. This is malice.

2. Guile:

Guile is deceit, opposed to truth and openness of mind. A man who cherishes guile is never to be trusted.

3. Hypocrisies: *Rom. 12:9, 19*

One who deceives and intends to do so and does it knowingly. His effort is to appear to be what he is not.

4. Envy: *those*

Envy<sup>r</sup> more fortunate, want to be like them and are mortified if cannot be

5. Evil Speakings: The bane of all society.

*1. May insinuate doubts as to their piety. 2. It is a very easy thing to blot the character of another. A very difficult thing to repair the injury done.*

