

## Never Stop Growing

When we are kids, we always hope we will grow a little more each year. Parents measure and mark a spot on the side of the doorway and exclaim over the progress. “You have grown another inch! You are so much bigger!”

When we reach adulthood, we sometimes don’t want to grow anymore. We might grow wider rather than taller when we don’t want to. We sometimes think we have learned or done everything we need to do.

Perhaps we might become one of those know-it-alls who says “I know all I need to know”, or even worse, pretend to know everything. Having entered my sixth decade of life, I have learned that we do not know anything until we know there is more to know than we will ever be able to know.

Socrates, one of the great Greek philosophers, after a lifetime of learning and thinking, one of the smartest people who ever lived, finally wrote, “One thing only I know, and that is that I know nothing.’

God alone knows everything, and wants to teach us all of our lives. We are blessed to have churches which can tell us about the creation of the world, the love God has for us, and the blessings which can happen when we follow Jesus.

Jesus’ disciples always wanted to know what was coming up. Amazingly, they did not understand much of Jesus’ teaching until after his death. One day, when Jesus had been resurrected after his death on the cross, they asked him, “Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” [Jesus replied, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by His own authority.](#) But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth~ Acts 1:6-8

There are many things we must know to live the lives God intends for us to experience. We must always keep learning, always going to church and Sunday School, and Bible Studies which teach us insights about the faith life. When we stop learning, or knowing the important things of life, we start dying inside.

Tim McGraw, a great country singer, sang a song about a man who went to the doctor and found out he only had a short time to live. Did he sit down to die? No,

He said:

"I went sky divin',  
I went rocky mountain climbin',  
I went 2.7 seconds on a bull named Fumanchu.  
And I loved deeper,  
And I spoke sweeter,  
And I gave forgiveness I'd been denying."  
And he said, "Someday I hope you get the chance  
To live like you were dying."

I know people who have been given a new lease on life, after serious diagnoses, and most people of faith find new and better life starting right then. They don't put off things they always wanted to do. And like the song above, they offer that forgiveness instead of the anger they had held inside for years. They "live like they are dying."

Henry Ford changed the course of history with his ideas of manufacturing. He made cars better than anybody else. But he did it well. He said, "Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at twenty or eighty. Anyone who keeps learning stays young. The greatest thing in life is to keep your mind young."

So, dear reader, keep learning and growing. And if you ever listened to anything I ever said, listen to this. Keep learning about God. Keep learning about faith. Never stop growing. Never stop doing the wonderful things God made possible. Using our gifts for others, finding the highest focus on God's love rather than on our own, seeing the most important things like faith, family, and blessing others with the gifts God has given you.

Mahatma Gandhi, an Indian spiritualist, thought a lot about this. "Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever."

This curious balance between tomorrow and forever has been at the forefront of thought for centuries. Finding the proper balance is part of the search we are all

meant to see. Some sadly never discover it. But those who do, are in for the ride of their lives.

For God will take us places we could never go on our own. God will show us things we could never see without him. Take chances which make others happy. Don't worry about what others may think or say. For the good we do is what God sees, and the world we change is a better one for us having been in it.

Live knowing that Christ is in you, and all around you, and miracles will happen. The world will change.