

Growth/Increase

1. Read Genesis 1 & 9:1-3
What can you see was God's requirement on his creation? What had God made in the creation for the increasing to take place? What was the measure of the increase to be like?
Is this measurement allowed for in that each creature has its seed in itself and is fruit yielding? Is the increasing ability to the glory of the creature or the creator who put that ability in the creature in the first place?
2. Read Genesis 17:1-16
What was God going to do with Abram? What did God do with his name? What was God going to do with Abraham's seed after him? What do you think the basis of this increasing was? (vs 1&7) .
What must Abraham and his descendants do for the blessing to continue?
Why could God do all this? (vs 1)
3. Read Deuteronomy 28:1-25 & 58-63
Can you see the basis for God causing the children of Israel to increase and be fruitful?
Can you see what would happen in contrast if the children of Israel did not keep the commandments of the Lord? (The covenant depended on the keeping of the commandments)
Does it show you why Christians do not grow in the Lord and after many years appear to have got nowhere?
4. Read Isaiah 35 & John 7:37-38
What was the reason for the fruitfulness that was to break out in the desert (vs 6&7)? What was the state before the waters came? Can you see the similarity between this and when Jesus cried "if any man thirst"? What was the answer to the thirsty soul? The desert was to blossom.....? What should happen to our lives in the Lord when out of our belly flows rivers of living water?
5. Read Psalm 1 & 1 Peter 2:1-5
What is the secret of fruitfulness in the psalm? (the law was the basis of the covenant)
Who should we meditate or think on these days?(meditate has nothing to do with the meditation related to yoga or other eastern occult deceptions). You could read Philipians 4:4-9 to see how our thinking should be directed especially in times of anxiety. Is the growth and fruitfulness of human effort or a natural consequence of being "a tree that stands by the waters"? What is the water again? What are we told to desire to grow by? (the word sincere means pure or without fraud) What must you have tasted? To whom do we come to be built up a spiritual house? (each stone grows in the Lord as does the whole structure as he adds to it).
6. Read Acts 2:41-47 to see who added to the church on what basis.
What should the church continue in if it is to know addition? Does it make you realise how we need the Lord to move on us (and many other churches and fellowships) to bring us to the position when the Lord adds daily? Will you pray that God will do it for us?
7. Read Luke 2:52 & Colossians 1:9-11
Did Jesus need to grow? In what? What did Paul pray for the Colossians?
What was the purpose? What were they to be fruitful in? What were they to increase in?
How was this to happen? (vs 11)
8. Read 2 Peter 1:1-11, 3.18
What was to be multiplied to them? (can you see how it goes back to the principles of multiplication that God laid down in the original creation before sin came in?)
How was this to happen? (vs 3&4) Is there anything God has not given us in Jesus Christ for a godly life? What are we to add to our faith etc.? What will be the result of this? (vs8) (Does this fit in with Colossians 1?) What is wrong with a person who does not do these things? What are we to grow in? (3.18)

9. Read Ephesians 4:1-16

What has every member of the body of Christ received? What has God given to help build up the church? What stature are we all to grow up into? In what? (vs 13)

How does the body increase itself? Does every part mean every part?

What must everything be done in? Whose love?