

Marvelous Metaphors of Spiritual Growth

Colossians 2:1-7

“...so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ.”
(Col. 1:28, NIV)

GROWING CHRISTIANS ARE . . .

1) _____ in _____. (v. 2a)

“...the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as himself.” (1 Sam. 18:1)

“Two are better than one ... But woe to the one who falls when there is not another to lift him up. Furthermore, if two lie down together they keep warm, but how can one be warm alone? And if one can overpower him who is alone, two can resist him. A cord of three strands is not quickly torn apart.” (Ecc. 4:9-12)

“Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity.” (Col. 3:14)

“By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13:35)

2) enjoying _____ in _____. (vv. 2b-3)

“Christ Himself, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.” (vv. 2b-3)

“...to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.” (Col. 1:27)

“To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ,” (Eph. 3:8)

3) disciplined and solid like a

_____. (v. 5)

“...rejoicing to see your good discipline and the stability of your faith in Christ.” (v. 5)



4) _____ step by step in _____. (v. 6)

“Therefore, as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him....” (v. 6)

“[I pray that you] ... will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects....” (Col. 1:10)

“Therefore, be careful how you walk, not as unwise men, but as wise.” (Eph. 5:15)

“Finally then, brethren, we request and exhort you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us instruction as to how you ought to walk and please God (just as you actually do walk), that you excel still more.” (1 Thess 4:1)

Col. 3:6-7, Eph. 4:17-20

“...for you were formerly darkness, but now you are light in the Lord; walk as children of Light.” (Eph. 5:8)

5) _____ like a mighty _____. (v. 7a)

“...having been firmly rooted.” (v. 7a)

“He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water.” (Ps. 1:1)

6) being _____ as a magnificent _____. (v. 7b)

“...and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed.” (v. 7b)

“But each man must be careful how he builds on it. For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.” (1 Cor. 3:10-11)

Eph. 2:19-22

7) _____ as a _____. (v. 7c)

“...and overflowing with gratitude.” (v. 7c)

“...always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father.” (Eph. 5:20)

“Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name.”
(Heb. 13:15)

I'm Fighting for You...

Colossians 1:21 - 2:7

IN COLOSSIANS 1:9-12, PAUL SAYS, "I'M _____ FOR YOU."

IN THIS PASSAGE, PAUL SAYS, "I'M _____ FOR YOU."

"...so that we may present every man complete in Christ. For this purpose also I labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me. For I want you to know how great a struggle I have on your behalf...." (1:28b-2:1a)

THROUGH JESUS, TRUE BELIEVERS ARE . . .

➤ _____ to _____. (1:21a)

➤ _____ before _____. (1:21b-22)

"...[that I may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith." (Phil. 3:9)

➤ _____ in the _____. (1:23)

PAUL: "I'M FIGHTING FOR YOU . . ."

1) by being willing to _____
to make the _____ known to you. (1:24-25)

"...for I will show him [Paul] how much he must suffer for My name's sake." (Acts 9:16b)

Paul: "...that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings...." (Phil. 3:10)

"Now I want you to know, brethren, that my circumstances have turned out for the greater progress of the gospel." (Phil. 1:12)

"...we are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed...for all things are for your sakes, so that the grace which is spreading to more and more people may cause the giving of thanks to abound in the glory of God." (2 Cor. 4:8-15)



2) by doing whatever it takes to _____
— your only _____. (1:26-28a)

"...Christ in you, the hope of glory. We proclaim Him...!"
(v. 27-28a)

3) by encouraging you to _____
_____. (1:28)

"...but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ." (Eph. 4:15, see 1 Cor. 3:1-3)

4) by _____ while
relying on God's. (1:29-2:1)

"...we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field." (1 Cor. 3:9)

"For I can do all things through Him who strengthens me."
(Phil. 4:13)

"For you recall, brethren, our labor and hardship, how working night and day so as not to be a burden to any of you, we proclaimed to you the gospel of God." (1 Thess. 2:9)

5) by reminding you _____. (2:2-5)

"For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified." (1 Cor. 2:2)

6) by urging you to _____
to prove that you _____ and to
show _____ to God for it. (2:6-7)

"...work out your salvation through fear and trembling."
(Phil. 2:12)

**"...so that we may present everyone
fully mature in Christ" (Col. 1:28b, NIV)**

“...knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.” (1 Peter 1:18-19)

“...our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed...” (Titus 2:13-14)

“Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us.” (Gal. 3:13)

“...being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus.” (Rom. 3:24)

JESUS — THE REVEALER (vv. 15a, 19)

“He is the image of the invisible God...For it was the Father’s good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him....” (vv. 15a, 19)

“...Christ, who is the image of God.” (2 Cor. 4:4)

“And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth...No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him.” (John 1:14,18)

“He who has seen Me has seen the Father...” (John 14:9)

“And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His glory...” (Heb. 1:3a)

“For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form....” (Col. 2:9)

JESUS — THE RANKING ONE (v. 15b)

“...the firstborn of all creation.” (v. 15b)

“I also shall make him [the Messiah] My firstborn, The highest of the kings of the earth.” (Ps. 89:27, see Ex. 4:22)

JESUS — THE REASON (vv. 16-17)

“For by Him all things were created...all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things and in Him all things hold together.” (vv. 16-17)

“For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen.” (Rom. 11:36)

“...[He] upholds all things by the word of His power.” (Heb. 1:3b)

John 1:1-3

JESUS — THE RULER (v. 18a)

“He is also head of the body, the church...” (v. 18a)

“And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.” (Eph. 1:22-23)

JESUS — THE RISEN ONE (v. 18b)

“...and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead.” (v. 18b)

“But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep.” (1 Cor. 15:20)

“Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies’” (John 11:25)

JESUS — THE RECONCILER (v. 20)

“...and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross....” (v. 20)

“Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” (2 Cor. 5:18-21)