

(Topics and Lead-in Below)

Growing in God

Matthew 13:31-33; 2 Peter 3:18

♩ = 76

N.C. Gm Dm Eb F Gm Eb/G Dm Gm Gm/D Dm

1. Great un - seen God, I turn to You A tho't, a praise long
 2. This faith of mine is just a seed, A child - ish cry from
 3. You show Your - self in sim - ple ways, Thro' grow - ing light, thro'
 4. Now God, I see You all a - round! What beau - ty shines! What

Eb F F/C Gm/Bb D7sus Gm Dm Eb Cm/Eb D D7

o - ver - due. I hope that what I hear is true: You
 des - p'rate need. But as it grows, my heart is freed To
 dark - er days. You teach my ti - ny heart to praise And
 songs a - bound! I hear a mus - ic more pro - found And

Cm7 Cm6/A D7 1,2,3 Gm/G D Gm 4 Gsus/Gsus G

lis - ten, and You care.
 know and trust You more.
 find its joy in You.
 dance Your life and love!

WORDS: Ken Bible
MUSIC: Traditional Irish Folk Tune and Ken Bible

GROWING FAITH
8.8.8.6.

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TOPICS: Faith; Knowing Christ; Living in Christ; Seekers

LEAD-IN: *“The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and perch in its branches.”*
(Matthew 13:31-32, NIV)

LEAD-IN DEVOTIONAL READING:

A Living Relationship

It is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.
(Philippians 2:13, NIV)

If I could snap my fingers and make it so, I'd always be centered on Christ, conscious of Him, breathing prayer to Him, resting in Him completely. I'd make it so in a minute if I could.

But I can't. It doesn't work that way. And as it is, my focus gravitates from Him to myself. My will is so weak and inconsistent, and I'm left feeling foolish and distant and dirty.

But to my joy and amazement, I'm finding that I can have a living relationship with Him, one that changes from day to day, yet is stable. It is stable not because I can make it stable--I can't--but because His love never changes and because His Spirit in me is faithful.

I can love Him and trust Him and grow in Him. I can experience pain and frustration and disappointment, yet still be in Him. And through it all, my relationship with Him grows closer and richer and more personal and wonderful.

Do you need proof for yourself? Look back on your own life. No matter where you are in your walk with Him, you'll see that your spiritual life has been more stable than you could ever have made it.

Look around at the Christian people you know. What an infinite variety of personalities, backgrounds, and levels of maturity! Yet God is able to keep them stable, no matter how flawed and weak they are.

I still wish my heart and mind were immovable in Him, and someday they will be. But in the meantime, I like the living, growing feeling about our relationship. It's so real and warm and human. There's so much room for hope and comfort, pleasure and surprise in Him.

Thank You, my Lord, for staying with me.