GROWING UP IN CHRIST



Moving from Spiritual Childhood to Maturity

Pastor Dr. Emmanuel Mukisa D.D

Growing Up in Christ

Moving from Spiritual Childhood to Maturity

Pastor Dr. Emmanuel Mukisa D.D

Published by WOT Publishing, a ministry of Word of Truth Ministries International.

WOT PUBLISHING

Copyright © 2026 Emmanuel Mukisa. All rights reserved.

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise—without the prior written permission of the publisher, except in the case of brief quotations used in articles or reviews.

Published by WOT Publishing, a ministry of Word of Truth Ministries International.

www.wotpublishing.com

Interior formatting: WOT Publishing

First English mini-book edition 2026

Scripture quotations are taken from the King James Version (KJV) of the Bible.

For inquiries, permissions, or bulk orders:
Email: books@wotmi.org
Web: www.wotpublishing.com
Tel: +256 742 302 566 / +256 786 821 888

Contents

Introduction

1 Born into the Life of God 1

2 From Milk to Solid Food 3

3 The Word and Spiritual Growth 5

4 Established in Christ 7

5 Growing in Love and Wisdom 9

6 Growing Up Together 11

Continuing in the Word 13

Notes on Words and Passages 14

Principal Scripture Readings 15

Prayer of Salvation 16

About the Author 17

About the Ministry 19

Introduction

A child is born with life before he learns to walk. His growth does not make him a member of the family; he grows because he belongs to it. In the same way, the believer's journey into maturity begins with the life received through faith in Jesus Christ. We do not grow in order to become children of God. We grow as those who have been born of God (John 1:12–13; 1 Peter 1:23).

This distinction gives confidence to the pursuit of spiritual maturity. In Christ we have been made new, brought near to the Father and made partakers of His life (2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 2:13; 1 John 5:11–12). Yet the Scriptures also call us to grow in the knowledge of our Lord, to renew our minds and to walk in a manner worthy of our calling (2 Peter 3:18; Romans 12:2; Ephesians 4:1). The life is present; our understanding and expression of that life must develop.

Growth is more than the passing of years. It is seen in a mind instructed by the Word, a heart established in Christ, love exercised with discernment and a life that serves others. The Lord has given His Word, His Spirit and the fellowship of His people for our growth. This book will help you consider these provisions, respond to them and keep pressing forward with confidence in Christ.

CHAPTER ONE

Born into the Life of God

As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.

1 Peter 2:2 (KJV)

Read John 1:12–13; 1 Peter 1:22–2:3; 2 Corinthians 5:17

The starting point of spiritual growth is spiritual birth. John declares that those who receive Jesus Christ, believing on His name, are given the right to become children of God. He explains that this birth is of God, not the result of human descent or human decision alone (John 1:12–13). Christianity is therefore more than adopting a religious way of life. It begins with the life of God received through faith in His Son.

Peter tells believers that they have been born again through the living and enduring Word of God (1 Peter 1:23). The Word that announced the gospel to them is not a passing human opinion. It abides. Those who receive the gospel have a new beginning whose source is God Himself. This is the ground on which Peter urges them to desire the pure milk of the Word and grow (1 Peter 2:1–3).

Notice the order. Peter does not tell people to grow until they qualify to be born. He addresses those who have already received life. Growth is the development of what belongs to that life; it is not the purchase price of sonship. The believer does not acquire Christ in instalments. Christ is received through faith, and in Him the believer is a new creature (2 Corinthians 5:17; Colossians 2:6–10). What must increase is our knowledge of Him and the expression of His life in our thinking and conduct.

A newborn child may be unable to explain the family into which he has come, yet his limited understanding does not cancel his birth. As he is nourished and taught, he comes to know and express more fully what belongs to his family. So a believer may know little at first about righteousness, prayer or the life of the Spirit, but ignorance is not overcome by pretending to be mature. It is overcome by receiving instruction and continuing in the truth.

Peter's call to desire the Word follows a command to put away malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy and evil speaking (1 Peter 2:1). The appetite he describes belongs to a life that responds to God. Feeding on truth and laying aside conduct inconsistent with it belong together. The person who learns that he is loved by the Father must also learn to put away malice towards his brother. What we believe concerning our new life is to find expression in the way we live.

Paul gives a helpful distinction in 1 Corinthians 14:20. He tells the believers not to be children in understanding, while remaining like infants in malice. Innocence concerning evil is desirable; immaturity in understanding is not. God does not call His children to lose their simplicity of trust in Him. He calls them to grow in understanding so that their thinking and response to life are governed by His truth.

Do not measure your place in the Father's family by how much you know today. Your place rests in Christ. At the same time, do not use that assurance as a reason to neglect growth. Receive the Word with the expectation that you can understand it, practise it and become established in it. A child of God is meant to know the Father and to walk in the light of the life he has received.

CHAPTER TWO

From Milk to Solid Food

But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

Hebrews 5:14 (KJV)

Read 1 Corinthians 3:1–3; Hebrews 5:11–6:3

Paul wrote to the Corinthians as believers in Christ, yet he could not address them as spiritual people in the manner he desired. He had fed them with milk because they were not ready for solid food; even when he wrote, jealousy and strife showed that their conduct remained immature (1 Corinthians 3:1–3). Their division around human leaders exposed a practical problem. They possessed the vocabulary of faith, but their relationships were not yet governed by the truth they professed.

The question of maturity is therefore not settled by the length of time one has attended church or by the number of messages one has heard. Knowledge has an essential place in growth, but information that is never received and practised does not produce sound judgement. The Corinthians needed to recognise that Paul and Apollos were servants through whom they believed, while God gave the increase (1 Corinthians 3:4–7). Their allegiance to personalities was obscuring the work of God among them.

The writer of Hebrews also speaks of milk and solid food. Before the warning in Hebrews 5:11–14, he introduces Jesus as the high priest after the order of Melchisedec. There is much to explain, but the hearers have become dull of hearing. By that time they ought to be able to teach; instead, they need instruction again in elementary matters. The concern is not that foundational