

Words That Hinder & Words That Help Our Growth – Part 6

“Test yourselves to make sure you are solid in the faith. Don’t drift along taking everything for granted. Give yourselves regular checkups. You need firsthand evidence, not mere hearsay, that Jesus Christ is in you. Test it out. If you fail the test, do something about it.”
2 Corinthians 13:5 (MSG)

- **Our measure of testing is not simply self-evaluation, it is Biblical obedience to the life of Christ.**

Words That Hinder Our Growth:

- I. **Compromise**
- II. **Apathy**

Words That Help Our Growth:

- I. **Teamwork**
- II. **Focus**

We Focus By:

- **Keeping the main thing the main thing.**

The mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the Lord’s people. To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ. To this end I strenuously contend with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me.
Colossians 1:26-29 (NIV)

*As for me, my life has already been poured out as an offering to God. The time of my death is near. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful. And now the prize awaits me—the crown of righteousness, **which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on the day of his return.** And the prize is not just for me but for all who eagerly look forward to his appearing.*
2 Timothy 4:6-8 (NLT)

- **To keep the main thing the main thing we must understand what Paul understood.**

- **Why he did what he did.**

As for me, my life has already been poured out as an offering to God.

2 Timothy 4:6 (NLT)

For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand.

2 Timothy 4:6 (NKJV)

Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all.
Philippians 2:17 (ESV)

- **How he was able to do it.**

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful.

2 Timothy 4:7 (NLT)

- **What was at stake.**

And now the prize awaits me—the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on the day of his return.
2 Timothy 4:8a (NLT)

And this is the plan: At the right time he will bring everything together under the authority of Christ—everything in heaven and on earth. Furthermore, because we are united with Christ, we have received an inheritance from God, for he chose us in advance, and he makes everything work out according to his plan.

Ephesians 1:10-11 (NLT)

- **Who would be included.**

And the prize is not just for me but for all who eagerly look forward to his appearing.

2 Timothy 4:8b (NLT)

For he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus. ⁷ So God can point to us in all future ages as examples of the incredible wealth of his grace and kindness toward us, as shown in all he has done for us who are united with Christ Jesus.
Ephesians 2:6-7 (NLT)

*Whom have I in heaven but you? **I desire you more than anything on earth.** My health may fail, and my spirit may grow weak, but God remains the strength of my heart; he is mine forever. Those who desert him will perish, for you destroy those who abandon you. But as for me, **how good it is to be near God!** I have made the Sovereign Lord my shelter, and I will tell everyone about the wonderful things you do.*
Psalms 73:25-28 (NLT)