

This week, Pastor Sasha presents the sixth and final installment in the "Vineyard Values" series. Pastor Sasha talks about the "seasons of growth" that every life passes through. Growth is natural, and God intends his children to grow into mature believers. The goal is to grow into the image or likeness of Christ, to be the kind of person He was when He walked this earth. It is not enough merely to imitate the life of Christ. You need Jesus living within you, and only God can accomplish that.

There are several myths that hinder God in forming His image in you. One myth is that growth is automatic. It is not. Spiritual growth is intentional. Your choices every day help or hinder spiritual growth.

There is the myth that growth is instant. It is not. Spiritual growth is incremental. You grow through stages, step by step, gradually. Just look at nature; a tree is strong and grows by the season. A mushroom, on the other hand, reaches maturity over night, but it is a short-lived parasite producing nothing of lasting value.

There is a myth that you can do "nothing" about spiritual growth yourself, and that God does it all. Spiritual growth occurs through habitually choosing spiritual disciplines until they become a part of your DNA. There is a myth that you can do everything alone. Spiritual growth is relational. God designed us to support one another as we grow spiritually. We need other people to be able to reach maturity.

Finally, Pastor Sasha reminds us that growth is not always obvious. We do not always see ourselves maturing, but the process continues.

Spiritual growth is seasonal. Different times in your life have different needs. God is faithful and, as we cooperate with Him, as we choose the path of discipline and of fellowship, as we trust His purpose for us, He will bring us to maturity. His process causes us to grow visibly in "spurts."

Have you unintentionally believed any of the myths about spiritual growth? Have you been sidelined by some of these myths. Now is the time to choose the path to maturity. Are you ready to grow spiritually?