

# A Key To Spiritual Growth

**The physical creation in which we exist provides us with outstanding illustrations of growth.**

**The blue whale begins life as a barely visible egg weighing only a fraction of an ounce. At birth it weighs between two and three tons.**

**It averages about 200 pounds a day gain in weight during this period.**

And you thought you had a weight problem!

**By the time a blue whale reaches maturity in about 13 years it weighs more than 85 tons and exceeds 80 feet in length.**

**Other examples of growth are –**

Bamboo that can shoot up 120 feet in just three months.

The sequoia starts as a tiny seed, yet it can end up 270 feet tall and weigh 6,200 tons.

**But what about the lack of growth in a bonsai tree? What keeps it from growing more than 12 inches high?**

**Japanese growers have become experts in the art of raising dwarf or bonsai trees. One thing they do is to cut the taproot, the tree then must live on surface roots. So what otherwise could become a great oak, or a great pine tree, becomes a tree of 12-24 inches.**

People are sometimes like these dwarf trees, too many do **not** have their taproot in place, so they can reach the deep things that pertain to life and their Creator God. They try to grow just on the surface roots.

**The Holy Spirit is the taproot that is missing in their lives –**

Spiritual growth is **not** always outwardly prominent like the growth of the sequoia or like the growth of the giant blue whale.

**The Holy Spirit can be associated with noisy events, like the rushing wind and tongues of fire at that Pentecost, [Acts 2:2-4]. But more often the Holy Spirit is associated with quiet miracles.**

**The miracle that occurs at our baptism is a quiet miracle, but it is a real miracle that enables us to grow in spiritual character.**

The growth associated with the Kingdom of God, now and in the future, can be compared to the incredible growth found in God's physical creation.

**Mark 4:30-32** [New King James] *“Then He said, ‘To what shall we liken the kingdom of God? Or with what parable shall we picture it? It is like a mustard seed which, when it is sown on the ground, is smaller than all the seeds on earth; but when it is sown, it grows up and becomes greater than all herbs, and shoots out large branches, so that the birds of the air may nest under its shade.’”*

**What makes such dramatic spiritual growth possible?**

**It is using the Holy Spirit as our taproot.** We need to think about this daily and reflect on the enormous potential growth in physical creation and compare our spiritual growth.

**Galatians 5:22-25** [New King James] *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.”*

The “*fruits*” of the Holy Spirit are the very characteristics of the whole Eternal Triune God, and can be ours if we follow His lead, [**John 16:13; Acts 5:32; Romans 8:14**].

**1 Peter 3:17-18** [New King James] *“For it is better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit,”*

**Very sound advice from the apostle Peter that was inspired by the Master he loved, Jesus Christ our Saviour and Lord.**