

GROWTH

God makes us grow

Think about a farmer planting a field. He can prepare the soil, place the seed in the ground, provide water, pull weeds, and create the best environment possible for growth. But he cannot make a seed come alive. The same is true in our lives. We can open our Bibles, pray, go to church, serve others, obey what God asks of us, and surround ourselves with people who encourage our faith. These things matter. They are ways we faithfully tend the soil. But we cannot manufacture spiritual growth.

There will always be things you cannot control but you can faithfully tend what God has placed in front of you. You plant, you water, but God grows. And when growth finally breaks through the soil, remember who deserves the glory.

The gardener may tend the ground, but God is the One who gives life to the seed.

This Week's Verse

It's not important who does the planting, or who does the watering. What's important is that God makes the seed grow.

1 Corinthians 3:7 NLT

Hidden Word



I N I W D T P
O W D T W
W I I T G M T S G

Truth to Carry This Week

I will do my part faithfully and trust God with the growth

READ IT SLOWLY

*It's not important who does
the planting, or who does
the watering. What's
important is that God
makes the seed grow.*

1 Corinthians 3:7 NLT

WRITE IT OUT

Write the verse below



WHAT DOES THIS VERSE MEAN TO
YOU RIGHT NOW?



WHAT THIS VERSE MEANS

The church in Corinth had a problem. The people had begun dividing themselves according to the Christian leaders they preferred. Some identified themselves with Paul, while others followed Apollos. Instead of keeping their attention on Christ, they were becoming focused on the people God was using. In this verse, Paul quickly redirects their attention. He explains that he planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow.

We can easily fall into the same trap today. We may become attached to a particular pastor, teacher, worship leader, author, ministry, or person whose words have helped us grow. We may compare one person's ministry to another or assume that because someone is gifted, influential, or producing visible results, they must be responsible for the growth we see. God certainly uses people. He gives different gifts, abilities, and assignments to different members of His Church. But the people He uses should always point us back to Him.

Sometimes our frustration comes when we become dissatisfied with the role God has given us. We want to water when He has asked us to plant. We want to plant when He has asked us to water. Or perhaps most often, we want to make something grow that God has only asked us to tend. We want the person we have been praying for to change. We want someone to understand the truth we have shared. We want our children to immediately live out everything we have taught them. We want our ministry to grow. We want to see evidence that our work mattered. So we push harder, worry more, compare ourselves with others, or become discouraged when the results don't look the way we expected.

But God didn't ask us to make the seed grow. He asked us to be faithful. There is freedom in understanding the difference. You don't have to do someone else's assignment, and you don't have to produce God's results. If God has called you to plant, plant faithfully. If He has called you to water, water faithfully. If someone else gets to witness the growth, celebrate it rather than wishing the result belonged to you.

And when a harvest finally appears, remember who made it possible. Real fruitfulness isn't found in being the most impressive worker in the field. It is found in being peacefully content with the work God has placed in your hands while trusting Him with the outcome.

Paul planted. Apollos watered. Neither was the source of life. God made the seed grow. So appreciate the people God uses, but don't confuse the worker with the One doing the work. Be faithful to your assignment, allow others to be faithful to theirs, and leave the miracle of growth in God's hands.

We may work the field, but only God can make it grow.

WEEK 5

Hide it in your heart.

VERSE

*It's not important who does the
planting, or who does the watering.
What's important is that God makes
the seed grow.*

1 Corinthians 3:7

*Cover the full verse. Use
only the letters.*

I N I W D T P
O W D T W
W I I T G M T S G

REFLECTION

Am I content with the role God has given me, or am I comparing my assignment and results with someone else's?

Where am I trying to produce an outcome that I need to entrust to God?

FILL IN THE MISSING WORDS

*It's not important who does the
_____, or who does the _____.
What's important is that God makes
the _____ grow.*

You can do this

Each time you practice
you are hiding God's
Word deeper in your
heart

What's my assignment?

You don't have to do everything. Just faithfully do what God has given you to do.



Plant

Who might God be asking me to plant a seed of truth, love, or encouragement in?

One seed I can plant:



Water

What has already been planted that God may be asking me to encourage, pray for, or nurture?

One way I can water:



Let God Grow

What result have I been trying to control?

I am giving this outcome to God:

WEEK 5

Talk to God.

A prayer to start

God,
Keep my eyes focused on You rather than the people You use. Help me recognize the work You have given me and faithfully do my part without comparing my assignment to someone else's. When I plant, help me plant faithfully. When I water, help me water faithfully. May every good thing that grows through my life point back to You.

Amen.

END OF WEEK CHECK-IN

This week I practiced the verse:

☐

1 time

☐

3 times

☐

2 times

☐

More than 3 times!

Can I say the verse using only the Hidden Word?

☐

Not yet

☐

Yes!

☐

Almost

This week, God reminded me:

MY PRAYER

God, today I feel:

God, I need help with:

God, thank You for:

MEMORY CHECK

Try to write this week's verse from memory. Don't worry if you can't get every word. God is still teaching your heart.

Use this space to slow down and reflect. Write what stood out to you, what God may be showing you, or a prayer you have.

Use this space to practice this week's Hidden Word.