



**Wednesday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

**Teaching Series:** "I Will"

**Teaching Outline:** "I Will Grow Together with Others"

**1 Peter 2:1 - 2 (NLT)** - "1 So get rid of all evil behavior. Be done with all deceit, hypocrisy, jealousy, and all unkind speech. 2 Like newborn babies, you must crave pure spiritual milk so that you will grow into a full experience of salvation. Cry out for this nourishment."

**2 Peter 3:18 (NKJV)** - "But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

**Ephesians 4:15 (NLT)** - "Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church."

- God has commissioned us to \_\_\_\_\_ continually, to never cease progress.
- We should never reach a point where we are willing to lay down the daily disciplines of \_\_\_\_\_. We are challenged to continually grow in grace, knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ our Savior and grow in every way more and more like Christ.
- If we are not growing and "pushing the envelope" in our \_\_\_\_\_ life, our \_\_\_\_\_ life, and our \_\_\_\_\_ life, then those around, with us in ministry, or under our leader sphere of influence and responsibility will fall in stagnation as well. Our \_\_\_\_\_ affects and impacts other people's growth. Our \_\_\_\_\_ helps the Church \_\_\_\_\_!
- First, we must \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves; then we can \_\_\_\_\_ our people. Unfortunately, some people reverse this process, trying to grow their teams, their organization without growing themselves or their people. This is irrational. Grow yourself first!
- We can't make other people grow, but we can create an atmosphere conducive to their \_\_\_\_\_ - by our spiritual, personal, and professional \_\_\_\_\_. When we as team members, team leaders and co-laborers \_\_\_\_\_ in the Church provide both a \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ for growth, they give those around, with and under us the incentive they need to progress beyond what is normal and comfortable.
- When I say spiritual GROWTH, in one sense, I am referring to our alignment, acceleration and assimilation of our: **(1)** \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ; our **(2)** faithful and fruitful pursuit of our High, Holy and Heavenly \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ; and our **(3)** unwavering and unswerving \_\_\_\_\_ to the Word/Will of God, to making Christ the focal point and centerpiece of our celebrations, to the Church, to prayer, and to Each Other. This 2<sup>nd</sup> "I Will" is big; it's hugely important: **"I WILL GROW TOGETHER WITH OTHERS"**.
- **Why \_\_\_\_\_ together with Others?** Because we cannot \_\_\_\_\_ effectively as a believer in \_\_\_\_\_. We need the 'Laboratory of the Local Church' and the 'Mission-molding context of a Ministry Team' to effectively helps us stay \_\_\_\_\_ and grow \_\_\_\_\_. We need to be an active part and partner in \_\_\_\_\_ together individually and collectively as a family team.
- \_\_\_\_\_ things grow! *Healthy individuals help their respective Ministry Teams and Departments stay healthy and grow, and this in turn impacts the overall health and growth of the Church.* Our \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in not in isolation and independence which breed unhealthy and unholy celebrations of selfishness, self-righteousness, and pride. Remember, our \_\_\_\_\_ is personal, but never private! Too many \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ Christians.
- **'Together With Others' basically means:** **(1)** Gather together with others in Church to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ through our Worship and the Word of God (Instruction, Inspiration, Impartation), and, **(2)**

Growing together in various groups that provide: \_\_\_\_\_, sharing, \_\_\_\_\_ relationships, and \_\_\_\_\_.

- Why are \_\_\_\_\_ important? (Ex. SOTB/Sunday School; Small Groups; Faith Life Groups; etc.). Because \_\_\_\_\_ can only occur in the context of a connected and committed \_\_\_\_\_. **Read Acts 2:40 - 47 (NKJV)**
- We see the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ outlined in these verses listed above. And we know that this is a consistent theme throughout Church history: Gathering in LARGE and SMALL Groups. We need both to \_\_\_\_\_ Together with Others. There is a study that shows Christians who serve and actively participate in Small Groups and Ministry Teams are 5 x Times more \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ that (Sunday or Large Worship Service Only attenders).

#### 4 FACTORS OF GROWING TOGETHER WITH OTHERS:

**Read Ephesians 4:15 - 16 (NLT)** These passages illustrate a Christian who \_\_\_\_\_ in, \_\_\_\_\_ in, and \_\_\_\_\_ in the Church and on a Ministry Teams and Small Groups.

- If you not \_\_\_\_\_ in the Worship Service then you are not really \_\_\_\_\_ to the Church.
  - Full Engagement = **(1)** Always Attending, **(2)** Faithfully Giving generously; and **(3)** Frequently Inviting Others to attend or Bringing others to Church.
- If you not \_\_\_\_\_ in a Group or a Ministry Team then you are really not \_\_\_\_\_ to the Church.
  - **Read Romans 16:1 - 19 (NKJV)**
- **(1<sup>st</sup>) THE \_\_\_\_\_ FACTOR:** Consider this, if you are not involved or engaged in a Group or a Ministry Team, you could be a Christian sluggard. That means you may be a lazy and uncommitted Christian. It means you are unwilling to \_\_\_\_\_ spiritually together with other Christians.
- **(2<sup>nd</sup>) THE \_\_\_\_\_ FACTOR:** This simply means we willingly PARTNER and DO Ministry and co-labor to carry out the Missional-focus and contribute towards the Mission's WORK of the Church.
- **(3<sup>rd</sup>) THE \_\_\_\_\_ FACTOR:** **Proverbs 27:17 (NLT)** - "As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend."
  - **3 Environments of Learning: (1)** The \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ from the Ministry Gift (**Jeremiah 3:15 (KJV)** - "And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding."); **(2)** Your Personal \_\_\_\_\_ Time praying and reading the Bible - (**John 14:26 (NKJV)** - "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you."); **(3)** \_\_\_\_\_ in a Small Group or a Ministry Team within a Group - the memorable moments, motivations, and the major revelations and real changes that can occur.
- **(4<sup>th</sup>) THE \_\_\_\_\_ FACTOR:** **Read Acts 2:46 - 47 (NKJV)**
  - Healthy Ministry Teams and Groups \_\_\_\_\_!
- **Healthy Ministry Teams and Faith Life Groups \_\_\_\_\_!** Why? **(1<sup>st</sup>)** The \_\_\_\_\_ of the Church is directly ties to the health of the Ministry Team and/or Group - in other words if we have spiritually sick or stagnant people on the Teams or in Group who choose to CRASH or COPE instead of CHANGE (GROW) then they can cause that Team or Group to BE or BECOME unhealthy; **(2<sup>nd</sup>)** Ministry Teams and Groups \_\_\_\_\_ to close the Back Door of the Church; **(3<sup>rd</sup>)** When every Member commit to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ a Minister - (aka an Active and Committed Member of a Ministry Team and/or a Group) the Church becomes significantly stronger and healthier; **(4<sup>th</sup>)** Every Ministry Team and Group Member should be \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ people to the Team or the Group. Why? Groups \_\_\_\_\_! Connections Matter! You only \_\_\_\_\_ what you are \_\_\_\_\_ to!