

“It’s Time to Grow!”

By McKade Marshall

As the rain begins to fall this spring, I believe God is also raining down His blessings on your life in a new way. Just as God sends down water from the sky to nourish the plants, bring refreshment and cause new growth, He is sending forth His Spirit in a fresh new way on your life in this season. **It’s time to grow!** Just as water and the rays of the sun feed the flowers and trees of the field, the water of God’s Word and rays of God’s Son is feeding your Spirit. God created and designed you to resemble His glory here on the earth. Like a tree in full bloom, God wants you to bloom and blossom in this season. The prophet Isaiah declares in Isaiah 61:3 (NASB), “So they [the children of God] will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified.” The key to seeing supernatural growth in your walk with God is learning to receive what God has for you.

The good things of God cannot be earned, or conjured up by human will. As a child of God, you are a part of Christ’s body. You inherit all the blessings and promises of God found throughout the Scriptures, from Genesis to Revelation. **Faith is what opens the door for God to do great things in your life.** Faith is what pleases God and causes blessings to activate (Hebrews 11:6). Today you may be in a time of transition. You may not understand everything going on in your life, or why something has happened. Now is the time to place your faith and hope in God. Now is the time to dig your roots in and stand strong in God’s Word. When you continually keep God’s promises in front of you, He will begin to cause the growing!

The Apostle Paul tells the early church in 2 Corinthians 9:10 (NASB), “Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness.” Friends, today God wants to multiply the seed in your hand. Today God wants to increase the fruit of your labor. Whatever God has called you to do, I believe today He is blessing in a new way. *The anointing of ease is coming into your life.* What used to be difficult is anointed with ease - more energy to get things done, more bang for your buck at the supermarket, more to give to others out of the overflow of your work, more peace to walk through difficult situations. Get a vision for the area of your life you desire to see God cause to grow. Maybe it is seeing a difficult child turning to the Lord and following Him with their whole heart. It could be opening a savings account this month to have extra funds in case of an emergency. Whatever God is placing on your heart, entrust Him with it. Believe He desires to multiply what is in your hands.

In the Scriptures, Jesus tells His disciples how powerful one small seed of faith is. *God does not require us to have tsunami faith, grandiose ideas, and an unrealistic belief system.* He actually teaches just the opposite. When comparing our faith to the seed of a plant, he doesn’t use the palm tree seed, or coco de mer, which is the largest seed in the world. The coco de mer can be as long as 12 inches and weigh up to 40 pounds. Instead, Jesus uses a mustard seed to illustrate the size of our faith. The mustard seed is only 1 to 2 millimeters and weighs only 1/2 a gram. Why would Jesus reference our required faith to be that of only a tiny mustard seed, which weighs over 18,000 times less than the largest seed in the world? Jesus tells His disciples in Matthew 13:31-32 (NLT), “The Kingdom of Heaven is like a mustard seed planted in a field. It is the smallest of all seeds, but it becomes the largest of garden plants; it grows into a tree, and birds come and

make nests in its branches." Again, Jesus reiterates how powerful one small seed of faith is in Matthew 17:20 (NLT), saying, "I tell you the truth, if you had faith even as small as a mustard seed, you could say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it would move. Nothing would be impossible." In other words, **just a little faith in the beginning can produce big results in the end.**

Little becomes much when God is in it. As you consider some of the dreams and aspirations God has put in your heart, remind yourself that God only requires a mustard seed of faith for you to realize your dreams. You were not meant to drag through life never having enough and experiencing lack all the time. You may not have a lot of resources to work with, but know today God is multiplying whatever you have. In the gospel of Mark, chapter 6, Jesus asks His disciples to feed thousands of people who were following Him to hear His message and teachings. After a long hot day, the disciples tell Jesus He should send His audience away to get food. Testing His disciples, Jesus tells them, "You give them something to eat!" They offer to go buy groceries, but Jesus asks them what they already have at hand. "Five loaves of bread, and two fish," they answered. The Scripture says in Mark 6:41-43 (NASB), "He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up toward heaven, He blessed the food and broke the loaves and He kept giving them to the disciples to set before them; and He divided up the two fish among them all. They all ate and were satisfied, and they picked up twelve full baskets of the broken pieces, and also of the fish."

As you consider what is in your hands today, however small it may be, consider the story of the five loaves and two fish. *Consider how great your God is!* You may not have much to work with right now, but that's ok. If God has called you to do something, He will make a way for you to accomplish it. The Lord may be tugging on your heart for you to go overseas on a mission trip, but you don't see how you can raise the funds. God can help make a way. Start with what you have. God could be calling you to open up your home to a Bible study or prayer group, or He may be leading you to help a ministry that reaches the less fortunate and the lost with your time and even financial resources. **Whatever God has put on your heart, trust Him with it and take the first step.** Plant the mustard seed of your faith into the soil. *Put action to your faith.* As you take a step of faith in obedience to God, know He is with you every step of the way. Like Jesus, lift your eyes up to Heaven and thank God for what is in your hands. Bless the five loaves and two fish, so to speak, and watch God multiply what you have. Expect baskets full of left overs. There is nothing too difficult for your God!

Seeing spiritual breakthroughs can often start in the smallest of ways. *Don't rule out the small things in life.* If your neighbor asks you to watch their house while they are out of town, that could be God using the opportunity for you to build a meaningful relationship with the person next door; maybe they want you to water their plants or feed their pets for a couple of days, but you don't care for plants or animals. Step out in faith and help your neighbor out anyway. Do it as though you were doing it for the Lord and not just for your neighbor. Philippians 2:4 (NASB) tells us, "Do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others." When you live a life that is not ingrown, where your eyes are only set on your own interests and your own agenda, God will bring people and opportunities for advancement in life your way. Looking out for #1 is not always you. Yes, you should love yourself because you are made in God's image. Yes, you should take care of your own needs. However, there are times when God will call you to look up and outward to the needs of others. How can you help somebody you know out? Are you mowing the lawn, and your neighbor's lawn could use a quick trim as well? Why not go the extra twenty minutes and make that person's day? **When you are good to others, God will pour out new levels of His goodness on you.**

King Solomon tells us in Proverbs 11:25 (NIV), “A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.” When you live a life considering others needs beyond your own, the Lord has promised He will prosper us. He will refresh us. He will send people our way to help us grow and reach our dreams. I have heard people speak out against the “prosperity” gospel in the news and while listening to others talk about church. While God does not promise all of us mega-bucks for our own personal gain here on the earth, He does promise us He will prosper us when we honor Him and His Word. *Prosperity goes far beyond monetary gain.* There are people who have prospered financially in this lifetime that will never step foot in God’s kingdom, which is very unfortunate. If money could buy the kingdom of Heaven, then Jesus would not have had to come to earth to atone for our sins. If this were true then having sins forgiven could be paid for by money, which through the Word we know is clearly not true. Only the shedding of blood atones for sin, as required by God (Hebrews 9:22). **The truth is Jesus came to both make atonement for our sins and to give us a life of abundance (John 10:10).** Abundance goes far beyond wealth. Abundance is having an endless supply of love, joy, and peace. Abundance is having health and hope during difficult times. Abundance is overcoming obstacles and trials we face throughout life.

When we place our faith in Jesus Christ and His Word, we have full access to the promises of God. The greatest and only true way to grow in life is by learning, understanding, and standing on God’s Word, which is the Bible. The Lord’s Word is perfect (Psalm 12:6). It is impossible for God to mislead you through His Word, because His Word is 100% truth. When you come into agreement with the truth of God’s Word, your feet become cemented to truth. There is nothing that can shake you. **Everything created, seen and unseen, is subject to the eternal utterances of God!** Take hold of different Bible verses and cling to them, as you would to a life raft in the ocean when tossed overboard during a raging storm. The Word of God can literally save your life, and it certainly does in eternity (Matthew 16:22).

Today God is calling you to break out of a poverty mindset. The Scriptures tell us that as you think, so you are (Proverbs 23:7). If you drag through life believing you will never prosper and grow, you probably won’t. If you believe you will never overcome an addiction or an illness, you may not. Don’t waste this gift God has given you called life with poor thinking. Reverse any negative thoughts you may have about your life. Boldly declare what your Father in Heaven says about you! I am prospering. I am growing. I am going to new levels of my destiny. With God, I can do anything. In Christ, I am extremely rich. You have an inheritance as a child of God. Get in agreement with everything God says about you.

Growing up, I was often very hard on myself in school and in sports. If I didn’t make the grade I was hoping for, I would put myself down and call myself stupid. If I missed a free throw playing basketball, I would get frustrated and tell myself I wasn’t good enough. As I grew older and matured, I began to take hold of who God said I was. When I messed up, I began to put a stop to putting myself down. *I began to encourage myself instead, telling myself to keep going and not give up.* I will never forget one time I was putting myself down, and I felt the Lord say to me down inside, “McKade, when you put yourself down, you are really putting Me down. I made you, and I don’t make mistakes. It not only hurts you, but it really hurts Me as well.” When I heard God say that, something changed in me. Over the years I have learned that God loves me unconditionally, and He has nothing but good stored up for me. **Likewise, you are made in the image of God.** Maybe, like me, you have struggled with putting yourself down. Today I believe God wants to break the chain of self-condemnation. You are a child of God Most High. You are valuable and belong to the Most Powerful King, the Creator of the universe. There is nothing God desire for you but good!

*This spring, trust God is growing you and doing things behind the scenes. His stored up blessings are right in front of you. You may have seen God do great things in the past, but I believe even bigger blessings are in your future. **Dreams you may have given up on are being given new life.** God your Father is activating the seed within and sending the rays of His Son and refreshing rains of His Word to ultimately bring out the great harvest lying just beneath the surface of your heart.*

In closing, if you are subscribed to my newsletters but do not receive weekly e-mails from me, I strongly encourage you to go to www.McKadeMarshall.com and submit your e-mail address on the contact page. **Every Sunday I e-mail subscribers a 15 to 20 minute video called *Word of the Week* with an inspiring Christian message.** I do not want you to miss out on these weekly videos so make sure you are signed up to receive *Word of the Week* in your e-mail inbox every Sunday!

I am also very excited to report that *Word of the Week* has really grown and reached new places all over the globe with the gospel message. **To date, *Word of the Week* has been viewed by online audiences from at least 49 countries.** Through your prayers and God's blessing, these videos are reaching a quarter of the world's nations already! As you partner with me, I believe together we are reaching *all* the nations, just as Jesus has commissioned us to do in Matthew 28:19. So from the bottom of my heart, thank you for your love and support.

I declare this spring God is growing you up in your faith. He is breaking any mindset holding you back from your highest potential and releasing you into His blessings of prosperity and abundance. **You are on track to live out the very best life possible because you honor God.** With the Lord's help, there is nothing you cannot accomplish! Enjoy this new season of growth. I love you, and I am praying for you.

Growing Up in Christ,



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