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## Is Your Faith Growing? (Mark 4)

In Mark 4 we have four deeply instructive parables taught by Christ. They were taught to a large crowd that had gathered about Jesus on the shores of the Sea of Galilee. He boarded a boat close to the shore and began to instruct them.

In each of these parables, Jesus describes some great aspect of the workings of the kingdom of God, ("The mystery of the kingdom of God", v11). Read them slowly and carefully, and take special note of the details; there is much for you and I to learn! Of these four parables, three deal with seeds germinating and developing. The main subject, therefore, centers about spiritual growth. As you consider each one, think about how important it is that you are continually growing and developing in your Christian faith.

### POINTS TO PONDER:

#### A. The Parable Of The Sower Teaches Us That God's Word Can Be Received In Different Ways

- *QUESTION: "I'm not growing. What should I do?"*
- Answer: Check your heart!

#### B. The Parable Of The Lamp Reminds Us That Only God's Word Can Illuminate Our Hearts

- *QUESTION: "How can I know the true condition of my heart?"*
- Answer: Only By The Word of God.

#### C. The Parable Of The Growing Seed Emphasizes The Importance Of Spiritual Growth

- *QUESTION: "What can I do to make my faith grow?"*
- Answer: Read God's Word Daily And Pray!

#### D. The Parable Of The Mustard Seed Reminds Us That The Christian Life Has A Definite Beginning

- *QUESTION: "I Have No Faith. What Must I Do?"*
- Answer: You Must Repent and Believe the Gospel.

### CHALLENGE TO CHANGE:

A healthy Christian is a growing Christian. *Are you growing in your faith? Are you advancing in your spiritual life?* God wants you to grow! Look to Him, and know the power of His word to grow and build up your faith. "Your faith grows exceedingly" (2 Thessalonians 1:3).