

Mark 4:21-23

And he said to them,
“Is a lamp brought in
to be put under a basket,
or under a bed, and not on a stand?
For nothing is hidden
except to be made manifest;
nor is anything secret
except to come to light.

“If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear.”

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LIGHT

Light shines in the darkness

Light reveals truth, illuminating the way for us

Light reveals sin, and judges it (a consuming fire)

Light dispels the darkness

Light shines off objects that reflect it:

thus magnifying the light,

and illuminating the way for others

Mark 4:24

And he said to them,

“Pay attention to what you hear:
[lit. “See what you hear!”]

“With the measure you use,
it will be measured to you,
and still more will be added to you.”

Romans 5:20

Where sin increased,
grace abounded all the more.

Mark 4:25

“For to the one who has,
more will be given,
and from the one who has not,
even what he has will be taken away.”

“THE MATTHEW EFFECT”
A term coined by Robert K. Merton

Credit will usually be given to researchers who are already famous, leading to the disproportionate visibility and influence of those who are already known over and against those who are less well known, even though the work of these latter may be equally valid or superior.

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How Growth Happens

1. Decide to be good soil, today!

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2. Prepare for the discipline of discipleship.
3. Train in godliness, applying Word to life.

1 Timothy 4:7-8

Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths.
Rather train yourself for godliness;
for while bodily training is of some value,
godliness is of value in every way,
as it holds promise for the present life
and also for the life to come.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

All Scripture is breathed out by God
and profitable for teaching, for reproof,
for correction, and for training in righteousness,
that the man of God may be competent,
equipped for every good work.

Titus 2:11-13

For the grace of God has appeared,
bringing salvation for all people, training us
to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions,
and to live self-controlled, upright,
and godly lives in the present age,
waiting for our blessed hope,
the appearing of the glory of our great God
and Savior Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 9:25-27

Every athlete exercises self-control in all things.
They do it to receive a perishable wreath,
but we an imperishable.

So I do not run aimlessly;
I do not box as one beating the air.
But I discipline my body
and keep it under control,
lest after preaching to others
I myself should be disqualified.

Hebrews 5:14

Solid food is for the mature, for those
who have their powers of discernment
trained by constant practice
to distinguish good from evil.

Hebrews 12:11-14

For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed. Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.

How Growth Happens

1. Decide to be good soil, today!
2. Prepare for the discipline of discipleship.
3. Train in godliness, applying Word to life.
4. Remember that source and power of growth
... is God!

2 Corinthians 4:5-7

For what we proclaim is not ourselves,
but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves
as your servants for Jesus' sake.

For God, who said,
“Let light shine out of darkness,”
has shone in our hearts to give
the light of the knowledge of the glory of God
in the face of Jesus Christ.
But we have this treasure in jars of clay,
to show that the surpassing power
belongs to God and not to us.