

# **The Joy of Being Grown Up**

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## I. Introduction.

A. Text: Romans 8:14-25.

B. A person cannot try to grow.

C. The only way to help someone to grow is to help him understand the conditions of growth and help him act on it.

## II. The sign of a son.

A. All true Christians are sons of God.

B. The mark of the sons of God is that they love the Father and have a sense of His fatherhood.

C. The son only begins to enter into his inheritance from God when he learns to walk as an heir.

D. The hidden resource of Jesus' sinless life was communion and fellowship with an indwelling Father.

E. If the believer lives in dependence upon the Father as Jesus did it will lead to suffering.

## III. The reason for suffering.

A. Suffering is an expression of unity with Christ in love.

B. Kinds of suffering.

1. Those that result from one's own folly.

2. Those that result from circumstances beyond our control.

3. Those that result from involving ourselves with the needs of others.

C. What can be done about suffering.

1. Break out, which refers to rebellion.

2. Break down, which refers to self-pity.

3. Break through, which is accepting suffering by the grace of God.

D. Suffering is the process by which God brings glory to the believer's life.

E. Suffering results in releasing creation from its futility.

F. Suffering teaches us how to handle a glorified body.

G. The future for the Christian is as bright as the promises of God.

**Application questions:**

1. Why cannot a person grow by himself?

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2. What role does dependence upon Christ play in the Christian's growth? What does this look like?

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3. Who do you know that has been a model Christian under suffering? How has this encouraged your own walk of faith?

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