

Miracle Growth

Every day I met precious people – staff, members, visitors – in the corridors of the church where I worked in Denver in the early 70s. This particular morning was no exception.

Elaine* was a new staff member. I also knew she was a relatively new Christian. In fact, her teen-aged daughter led her to the Lord.

"Good morning, Pastor Paul!"

"Good morning, Elaine! How's it going?"

"OK, I suppose."

"You suppose?"

"Well, it's just that I'm not happy with my spiritual growth. Now, my daughter, Carol* – she's growing by leaps and bounds."

"What's your hurry?"

"What's my hurry! I have wasted so many years and I would like to make up for lost time."

"Is that what the Lord is telling you: make up lost time?"

"It's what I'm telling myself. It's something I want very much."

"Do you think the Lord is displeased with the rate of your progress?"

"I don't know. I haven't asked him."

"Elaine, I'm a farm boy. The only things that grow fast on the farm are the weeds. Fruit trees take time. You can't rush them. Besides, there is something more important than the speed of your spiritual growth."

Elaine waited for me to continue.

"The Lord is more concerned about your personal relationship with him than he is about your performance for him."

"I never thought of it that way. Then it's a love relationship, isn't it?"

"Supposed to be. Actually, the quality of our spirituality and performance comes out of that relationship."

"Thank you, Pastor Paul. I see that I have to get my eyes off myself and on the Lord."

* Not their real names. ◇◇◇