THE CYCLE

1. Life BEGINS.
2. Life is SUSTAINED.
3. SUSTAINED life brings about GROWTH.
4. GROWTH leads to eventual MATURITY.
5. MATURITY results in FRUIT BEARING and REPRODUCTION.
6. CYCLE repeats.

THINGS NEEDED FOR GROWTH

1. LIGHT. (GOD’S REVEALED TRUTH)

    And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.  Genesis 1:3
    The unfolding of your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.  Psalms 119:130

2. AIR. (PRAYER; DAILY FELLOWSHIP)

    Pray continually.  1 Thessalonians 5:17

3. WATER. (THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT)

    Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit.  Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.  You should not be surprised at my saying,  'You must be born again.'  John 3:5-7
"I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you. All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you. John 16:12-15

4. NOURISHMENT. (GOD’S WORD)

   Jesus answered, "It is written: `Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.' "
   Matthew 4:4

   Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, 1 Peter 2:2

5. NURTURE and CARE. (THE CHURCH; FELLOWSHIP; LOVE IN ACTION)

   It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

   Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work. Ephesians 4:11-16

Related Scriptures: 2 Corinthians 10:15,16; Ephesians 2:19-22; Ephesians 4:1-6,11-16; Colossians 1:1-14; 2 Thessalonians 1:3,4; 1 Peter 2:1-3; 2 Peter 3:17,18
Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,

To the holy and faithful brothers in Christ at Colosse: Grace and peace to you from God our Father.

We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all the saints—

the faith and love that spring from the hope that is stored up for you in heaven and that you have already heard about in the word of truth, the gospel that has come to you.

All over the world this gospel is bearing fruit and growing, just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and understood God's grace in all its truth.

For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of His will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding.

And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please Him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God,

being strengthened with all power according to His glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience,

and joyfully giving thanks to the Father, Who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light.

For He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son He loves, in Whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.