

## Growth: What Is It, and Where Does It Come From?

As illustrated to the right, the fact of growth far transcends the mere fact of change. “Change without growth ... is valueless—is potential evil.” (100:3.5) True change results from growth that is extended downward through true progression and true adaptation. It is very important for mankind to know and obey this truth; because we live in “dangerous times of transition from one phase of civilization to another” (99:1.3), and change is “imperative if cultural disaster is to be avoided.” (99:1.1) If we simply enact and impose change that reflects the current cosmic ignorance of man, the “potential evil” will become an actuality of darkness and death.

Are we the source of growth? No, “Man cannot cause growth, but he can supply favorable conditions.” (100:3.7) Such “favorable conditions” are more than the consecration of your will to the will of God the Father; they are also “unquestioning loyalty and wholehearted devotion to supreme values.” (100:6.1) You must consecrate your mind to the objective, cosmic harmony of the Supreme, the character of God the Mother; because you do not literally grow, you are grown by her—the source of all finite, evolutionary growth.

(reflections by Chris M. Halvorson)

### Personality

purpose of life—perfectibility

The potential of perfectibility actualizes in spirit substance, because personality (individuated will) is spirit pattern.



### Spirit Substance

*perfecting spirit = growth*

value of life—progressability

The potential of progressability actualizes in mind energy, because spirit dominates mind.



### Mind Energy

*progressing mind*

meaning of life—adaptability

The potential of adaptability actualizes in living matter, because mind dominates matter.



### Living Matter

*adapting life*

nature of life—variability

The potential of variability is a product of both the design of the living matter and the presence of life animation in that matter.



### Material Substance

*varying things = change*