

## *Donna's Devotional*

### **Big Trees**

*But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.  
To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen  
2 Peter 3:18*

On our vacation, we had the privilege of visiting Calaveras Big Trees State Park in Arnold, California. I was awestruck at the giant redwoods, which reached a height of 325 feet and a diameter of 33 feet. These massive trees conveyed strength and majesty.

When I saw these trees, I gave very little thought to the growth process until I saw a weak seedling. Then I pondered the contrast of the strength of the giant and the frailty of the seedling. I realized that even these majestic redwoods started as weak babes. It takes many years for the growth process, which includes the right nutrients and sunlight. It also takes the opposing forces of the wind and rain for the little trees to grow strong.

In much the same way, the Giants of the Faith, those men and women of spiritual strength started out as babes in Christ. They needed the nurture and admonition of the Word of God. They needed the wisdom, guidance, and fellowship of other believers. They grew strong as their faith was tried and they learned to be strong in the Lord.

Think of the apostles for examples of this growth process. Remember Peter, how weak he was when he denied his Lord. Later he stood in the face of severe opposition and preached Christ. Paul was responsible for the death of Stephen and other Christians. When the Lord touched Paul, he spent about fourteen years growing before he was strong enough to go on his missionary journeys.

Don't be discouraged if you are not a Giant of the Faith. God is working to grow you into a Giant. He asks that you be receptive of His grace and willing to grow in knowledge as He prepares you.

*Ephesians 4:15: But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ.*