

Grace and Works: GOD'S PROCESS FOR OUR GROWTH

2 PETER 1:5-11

_____ is the ongoing process of becoming more like Christ.

virtue (aretē)	knowledge (gnōsis)	self-control (egkrateia)	steadfastness (hupomonē)	godliness (eusebeia)	brotherly affection (philadelphia)	love (agapē)
choosing what is morally excellent	understanding and applying God's truth	governing desires and actions in obedience to God	remaining faithful despite difficulty	living in reverence and devotion toward God	loving fellow believers as family	sacrificially seeking the good of others

Important Features of Sanctification

1. Your sanctification _____ on your effort.

For this very reason, **make every effort** to supplement your faith ... v. 5a

2. Your sanctification depends on _____ effort.

For this very reason, **make every effort** to supplement your faith ... v. 5a

His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. 2 Peter 1:3-4

Cautions Along the Path of Sanctification

1. Losing sight of who you're called to be or how you're called to live

For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. v. 9

Motivated by His grace, _____ on the calling He has made clear.

2. Over-applying grace because the sanctification process is too uncomfortable

Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. v. 10

_____ to "make every effort" in the areas Christ is calling you to grow.

3. Not having the ability because you've not accepted the grace the gospel offers

The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. 1 Corinthians 2:14

REPENT and _____.

HOME GROUP

Lesson + Devotional

Before you begin, ask the Holy Spirit to teach you and guide your study.

1. Read 2 Peter 1:5-11. First and foremost, are you sure of your salvation? That is, do you "know" God, or do you only "know about" God?
2. *Sanctification* is the process by which we become more like Christ. What do we learn about the process from the passage? What help did the sermon give you?
3. If sanctification is by grace alone, what good are our efforts? Should we continue our efforts, or not? Why?
4. How does belonging to and participating in God's nature affect how you see your daily life and the ways you relate to others?
5. Peter anticipates the results occurring in those who heed his suggestions and those who ignore them. What happens if believers fail to obey Peter's command to "make every effort"? What happens if we do make every effort?
6. Many Christians have "forgotten" how much God has forgiven them, or they appreciate His forgiveness only superficially, having little motivation to grow in grace and thereby please God. How true is this of you today? What will you take away from the sermon to help you move forward in your sanctification?
7. Who could you gather around you to help bring out the "God-nature" within you? In turn, who can you encourage to grow in their Christ-likeness?
8. Are the seven qualities on Peter's list growing in your life? Which godly trait do you want to add to your faith this week? How will you pursue that?

HELPFUL

Quotes

Too many Christians are content simply with being Christians, happy simply to know they won't go to hell. But the true Christian never rests content with such a minimal (albeit important!) level of Christian experience. True "knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ" (end of v. 8) should always spark the unquenchable desire to know him better and better and to seek to use that knowledge in the service of others. Indeed, as Peter will suggest in this letter, one cannot be a true Christian without showing the effects of one's relationship with Christ in a renewed lifestyle. - *Douglas Moo*

Peter was certainly a spiritual realist even if many modern theologians are not. He does not take it for granted that spiritual growth will occur automatically or inevitably. Indeed, the character development he thinks of cannot occur apart from the believer 'giving all diligence' toward that end (v 5). This does not mean, of course, that the believer does this all on his own. God supplies the basic resources and provides help along the way. But Christian growth will not occur apart from our diligent participation in the process. If we learn nothing else from this passage, we must learn this. We do not passively experience Christian growth, but actively pursue it! - *Zane Hodges*

Where there is life, there must be growth. The new birth is not the end; it is the beginning. God gives His children all that they need to live godly lives, but His children must apply themselves and be diligent to use the "means of grace" He has provided. Spiritual growth is not automatic. It requires cooperation with God and the application of spiritual diligence and discipline. ... Peter listed seven characteristics of the godly life, but we must think of them as seven beads on a string or even seven stages of development. The word translated "add" really means "to supply generously." In other words, we develop one quality as we exercise another quality. These graces relate to one another the way the branch relates to the trunk and the twigs to the branch. Like the "fruit of the Spirit" (Gal 5:22-23), these qualities grow out of life and out of a vital relationship with Jesus Christ. It is not enough for the Christian to "let go and let God," as though spiritual growth were God's work alone. Literally, Peter wrote, "Make every effort to bring alongside." The Father and the child must work together. - *Warren Wiersbe*

YOUR NEXT STEP AT Christ Chapel



Connect and Belong

New or returning, fill out a Connect Card and experience life together at Christ Chapel.

Together in Prayer

We want to pray with and for you this week as we go to God together.



Partner with Us by Giving

Be a part of what God is doing near and far by giving to local and global ministry partners.

Upcoming Events

Join in to grow your faith, make disciples, and reach those who do not know or walk with Jesus.



A WONDERFUL Offer

Being a Christian isn't based on membership in a local church or keeping a set of rules. It involves a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and an understanding of who He is and what He has done to provide man with a way to experience God's love for us. Here's how to know Jesus Christ as your personal Savior:

1. Admit that you're a sinner, separated from a holy and perfect God.
(Romans 3:23; Isaiah 53:6)
2. Understand that the penalty for your sin is death – eternal separation from God and all that is good.
(Romans 6:23; Hebrews 9:27)
3. Believe that Jesus Christ took the penalty for your sin by dying in your place and conquered death by rising from the dead.
(Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21)
4. Receive the free gift of salvation by trusting in Christ alone as your Savior from sin and death and your provider of true and eternal life.
(Romans 4:4-5; Ephesians 2:8-9)

You can use this prayer to express your decision to God:

Dear God, I know that I am a sinner. I believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross for me and rose from the dead. I trust in him alone as the only way to be reconciled to you. Thank you for the forgiveness of sins and the eternal life I now have. Amen.



We'd love to know about your decision. Scan the QR code to learn more about following Jesus!

SERMON BLANKS: Sanctification, depends, Christ's finished, refocus, recommitt, believe