

How Do We Grow in a Corrupt World

2 Peter 1:5-11

Main Idea: After we come to Christ, many of us wonder how spiritual growth works in practice. While there are no formulas to the Christian life, in this passage, Peter gives us the essential pattern for how spiritual growth works.

1. *IT BEGINS WITH AN ATTITUDE – Those who enjoy spiritual growth consistently apply diligence to their faith. 2 Peter 1:5a*

- A. The faith Peter refers to here is the initial faith of our salvation.
 - 1. When we first come to Christ, we know at least one thing. Jesus died for me.
 - 2. When we first come to Christ, we are presented with a vision: build on the foundation.
 - 3. The command to “apply” is the command to build on the foundation.
- B. What attitude should we have as we build on the foundation?
 - 1. When builders begin a project speed is critical because of the profit motive.
 - 2. When Christians begin the Christian life speed is critical because of a spiritual motive.
 - 3. Notice that diligence is something that you apply. It’s a decision.
 - 4. Notice that you are to supply all diligence.
- C. What applying all diligence means.
 - 1. It does not mean that you develop a legalistic mindset.
 - 2. It does mean that you get serious about the relationship.

2. *IT CONTINUES WITH AN ACTIVITY – Those who enjoy spiritual growth systematically work on character development. 2 Peter 1:5b-9*

- A. Notice Peter’s strategy in the verses 5-7. It’s like building a house.
- B. The first story consists of five progressive personal qualities. 1:5b-7a

1. Moral excellence	4. Godliness
2. Knowledge	5. Perseverance
3. Self control	
- C. The second story consists of two relational qualities. 1:7b
 - 1. Brotherly kindness
 - 2. Christian love
- D. The benefit of building these character qualities into your life. 1:8
 - 1. You will be useful to God in ministry. 1:8b
 - 2. You will be fruitful to others in ministry. 1:8c
 - 3. The challenge: Make these qualities your own and increase them. 1:8a
- E. The downside of neglecting these qualities – You display your spiritual forgetfulness. 1:9

3. *IT IS SUSTAINED BY ASSURANCE – Those who enjoy spiritual growth are motivated by a wonderful promise from God. 2 Peter 1:10-11*

- A. A promise for this life – You will never stumble. 1:10b
 - 1. Peter does not mean that you’ll enter a state of sinless perfection.
 - 2. Peter does mean that we’ll be guarded against serious moral and spiritual failure.
- B. A promise for the afterlife – You will have an abundant entry into heaven. 1:11
 - 1. On the one hand all of us will enjoy an abundant entry into heaven.
 - 2. On the other hand some will receive greater reward than others.
- C. The command – Make certain his calling and choosing you. 1:10a