

Series: Add To Your Faith

BUT GROW IN GRACE

2 PETER 3

Text: 2 Peter 3:18

2 Peter 3:18

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

Introduction:

1. THE EDICT TO GROW

Growth is natural – 1 Peter 2:2

1 Peter 2:2

² *As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:*

Growth is needed – Hebrews 5:11-14

Hebrews 5:11-14

¹¹ *Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing.* ¹² *For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of*

milk, and not of strong meat. ¹³ *For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe.* ¹⁴ *But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.*

Growth is nurtured – 1 Peter 1:5-14

1 Peter 1:5-14

5 Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 6

Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: 7 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: 8 Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: 9 Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls. 10 Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you: 11 Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow. 12 Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost

sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into. 13 Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; 14 As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance:

2. THE ELEMENTS OF GROWTH

- **Balanced Diet**

1 Peter 2:2

2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

Notice:

A. The Desire for Growth

Do you have a desire to grow as a Christian?

B. The Door for Growth

The Word of God

The Word of God is our:

- **Source of Spiritual Food**

1 Peter 2:2

2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

Matthew 4:4

4 But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

1 Corinthians 3:2

2 I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able.

Hebrews 5:12-13

12 For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. 13 For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe.

Psalms 19:10

10 More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.

Jeremiah 15:16

16 Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O LORD God of hosts.

- Regular Exercise

Acts 24:16

¹⁶ And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence toward God, and toward men.

1 Timothy 4:7-8

⁷ But refuse profane and old wives' fables, and exercise thyself rather unto godliness. ⁸ For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.

3. THE EVIDENCE OF GROWTH

- Discernment

Ephesians 4:14

¹⁴ That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

- Perseverance

It means little to know the difference between truth and error if one is unable to stand for the truth regardless of what comes.

James 1:2-4

² My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; ³ Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. ⁴ But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

Perseverance is not a trait that emerges fully developed in the new Christian. That's ok. That is to be expected. Toddlers are unsteady on their feet. They fall easily and frequently. It's all part of learning to walk.

- Humility

The third mark of maturity is humility, which includes the desire to continue striving to mature.

Paul describes it this way:

Philippians 3:12-15

¹² Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. ¹³ Brethren, I count not myself to have

apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,¹⁴ I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.¹⁵ Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you.

A sure sign of immaturity is the belief that I have attained maturity. Maturing as a believer means becoming more and more like Jesus.

James 3:13

¹³ Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom.

- A Willingness and Readiness To Build Up Other Believers

Close:

Are we growing?

We have an edict to grow.

There are elements for growth.

Growth will be seen in these evidences.