

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

1. The Spiritual Life

- a. **2 Peter 1:1-4** Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who through the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ have received a faith as precious as ours: ²Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. ³His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. ⁴Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.
- through the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ have received a faith as precious as ours:
(1) This letter is to those who have received a faith as precious as Peters.
 - through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.
(1) ²Grace and peace be yours in abundance
 - What is this knowledge of God and of our Lord
(a) The fore knowledge of God of those who would become sons and daughters of God.
 - through our knowledge of him
(1) who called us by his own glory and goodness
 - ³His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness
(1) ⁴Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises,
(a) so that through them you may participate in the divine nature
(b) escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.
2. Not the believer who is sin minded
- Romans 3:20** Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law *is* the knowledge of sin
 - 1 John 2:2-11** He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. ³We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands. ⁴The man who says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him. ⁵But if anyone obeys his word, God's love is truly made complete in him. This is how we know we are in him: ⁶Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did.
3. What is this New Command of Jesus?
- Matthew 5:44** But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,
 - Matthew 19:19** honor your father and mother,' "
 - Matthew 22:37** Jesus replied: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.'
 - Matthew 22:39** And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'
4. But the believer that sees that he is a NEW CREATION in Christ
- 2 Corinthians 5:17** Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!
 - Galatians 6:15** Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything; what counts is a new creation.

- c. **Ephesians 4:24** and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.
5. How does this new spiritual person grow?
 - a. **2 Peter 3:18** But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! .
6. What if you lack this wisdom?
 - a. **James 1:5-6** If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. ⁶But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind
 - b. **Matthew 6:32-33** (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knows that ye have need of all these things. ³³But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.
 - i. **Colossians 3:10** and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.
 - (1) First step
 - (a) Confess with your mouth that “you are a new creation, in the image of God”
 - (2) Second step
 - (a) Judge yourself, “do I walk, talk and think like Jesus”
 - (i) So we have work to do!!!
7. **Phillipians 3:13-14** Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.
8. **1 Peter 2:2** Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation,
9. **1 Peter 2:9** But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.
10. What is all this?
 - a. **Ephesians 3:19** and to know this love that surpasses knowledge--that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.
 - b. **Phillipians 1:9-11** And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, ¹⁰so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, ¹¹filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ--to the glory and praise of God.
11. Why?
 - a. **John 15:8** This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.
 - b. **2 Peter 1:10** Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never fall,