

## Growing in Grace

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

The surest sign of life is growth. Growth implies increase. It is a multiplicative advancement of vitality. Humans grow dynamically, especially during the formative years – emotionally, physically, intellectually. This should help us understand what Peter means in his Spirit inspired exhortation to “grow in grace”.

“But grow in grace.” Notice the contrasting conjunction – “but”. Growth in the grace of God is the opposite of something else, something about which we are warned in the preceding verse. 2 Peter 3:17 cautions us to beware of being led away with the error of the wicked and falling from our own steadfastness. Thus, growth in grace necessarily implies an awareness of our weakness – that no matter how long we have walked with God, we are still prone to error. We dare not think we have arrived while we yet draw our breath in this cursed world. We are fools if we believe we cannot fall. Our salvation is secure, but our rewards are not established until our final heartbeat. There is more ground to gain on our way to glory, and therefore available territory for the devil to usurp. We must walk circumspectly and continually strive to grow in this wonderful grace of God.

“But grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.” It is impossible to grow in grace without gaining more perspective on our Savior. There is always so much to learn from Him. Remarkably, the conduits of this infinite knowledge are quite limited. Bible study, prayer, genuine service, exhortation, corporate worship and fellowship – these are the blessed channels outlined for us in His Word. Negligence in these open opportunities will stunt the born-again soul, while partaking in them as frequently as possible will establish the heart in grace and spawn exponential growth of spirit.

Growing in grace also means that we continuously learn from it. What does grace teach us but to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts, and to live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world (Titus 2:11-12). One who is growing spiritually feels out of place down here. The world chafes against the spirit of the man or woman who has learned how to grow in God’s grace. There are jokes which grace does not find amusing, music that grace cannot listen to, things which grace refuses view, deals that grace will not make, falsehoods of which grace cannot partake, liberties that grace declines to entertain.

Because it knows it doesn’t belong here permanently, grace is increasingly looking for that blessed hope and glorious appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ (Titus 2:13). Growing in grace exposes this world for what it is – a cursed place with an expiration date. The world’s power and hold upon the spirit weakens with each passing day. There is a kingdom on the horizon, and that kingdom is known to be “home”. While the heart is established with an abiding joy, there is nevertheless a palpable homesick longing that tugs daily for those who are growing in grace.

Brothers and sisters, let us grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. – *D. Murcek*