

Intro: Promoting Spiritual Growth | Application

 **READ: Ephesians 4:11-16**

God put a plan in place that would develop each believer's maturity in Christ Jesus. As each member grows in their walk with the Lord, the body of Christ becomes increasingly united and steadfast in Him.

Sometimes personal spiritual growth will be quick, in spurts, while other times it may be slow and steady. Regardless, we should each be experiencing progress in the process of spiritual maturity.

 **John 10:10; 2 Peter 1:3-4**

Through His gift of salvation, Jesus has given us everything we need for life and godliness — all things necessary for each disciple to experience the abundant life Jesus promises. As believers grow in their knowledge and experience of God's truth, they escape the corruption of the world and experience abundant life in Him.


 **2 Peter 1:5**


This verse takes a shift in direction from the previous two verses. It moves from telling us about all that is available to us through Jesus for godly living, to pointing out a correct, personal response to Jesus' gift of grace. This instruction to *give all diligence* means to become intentional and persistent in making every effort to increase in our knowledge and practice of godly principles.

 **Proverbs 2:1-11**

 **WRITE:** What are the personal benefits of knowledge?


 Why is growing in the knowledge of God essential to spiritual growth?

 **2 Peter 1:6; 1 Corinthians 6:12**


 **ACTION:** Ask the Lord to show you one specific area in which you need to grow in demonstrating self-control.

 What are some ways you can rely on Him to help you in this area?


 **2 Peter 1:6; James 1:2-4**


 Ask the Lord to show you if there are any areas in your life that you avoid developing perseverance.

 What personal changes would it take for you to allow God to do a through work in this area of your life?


 What are the benefits of growing in perseverance?


 **2 Peter 1:6; 2 Corinthians 7:1**


 **THOUGHT-PROVOKING:** Are there any choices you're currently making that fail to reflect the righteousness of God?

 **FISHING FOR MEN:** What potential affect does your spiritual growth have in the lives of those around you?


 **2 Peter 1:7; Romans 12:9; Colossians 3:12-14**


 Is there anything that tempts you to be unkind or hinders you from fully loving others without conditions?

 What are some practical ways you can grow in goodness toward others?

 **2 Peter 1:8-9; Colossians 1:3-12**

 In what ways does spiritual growth make a person increasingly effective and fruitful for Christ's kingdom?

 Is there anyone in your life that God would want you to encourage in their walk with Him?
If so, will you make it a priority today to do so?

 **TO ENCOURAGE:** Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and forever! Amen. (**2 Peter 3:18**)