

Grow in Grace

One of the definitions of life includes the fact that to be alive, something must be growing, or at least capable of growing throughout its existence. This can be applied to things such as trees and birds, and also to ideas, such as faith and belief. So for your faith to be alive, it will display evidence of growth.

† **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! Amen.*

With these words from the Apostle Peter, inspired by the Holy Spirit, you are encouraged to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus. Since God never asks us to do anything for which he does not also equip us, you can be assured of several things.

First, God wants you to grow, so he provides the means necessary to make growth possible. You grow as you come into contact with the Word and Sacraments from God. The Holy Spirit enters your heart and soul through these means of grace. The more frequent your contact, the greater the growth will be.

Second, this contact with the Word will result in blessings. Besides the obvious blessing of growth in faith, you also are a servant of blessings to those around you as you share the Word with them. As you grow, you will be better at sharing, yes, more eager to share the good news of salvation with those around you.

Third, God is glorified as his Word is shared and you grow in his grace.

† **2 Corinthians 4:15** *All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God.*

As the Word is shared, the kingdom of believers grows and expands, reaching many more who need to hear the saving Gospel. As part of your personal ministry of sharing, and as you grow in grace and knowledge, there is great rejoicing and thanksgiving overflowing, to the glory to God. Live in him, with him, for him.

Your life is not your own. Your life is your personal ministry to God.