



Life Group Notes: 'Continuous Growth'

Tuesday 2nd May 2018

READ 2 PETER 1: 5-15

5 But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, 6 to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, 7 to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. 8 For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 For he who lacks these things is short-sighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. 10 Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; 11 for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. 12 For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth. 13 Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you, 14 knowing that shortly I must put off my tent, just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me. 15 Moreover I will be careful to ensure that you always have a reminder of these things after my decease.

INTRODUCTION:

The Bible encourages us to grow in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus by continually desiring and absorbing the undiluted Word of God; the pure milk (1 Peter 2:2), which is the true spiritual growth enabler for every believer. Following on from last month teachings on active faith and the need to have a balanced blend of faith and works, today we explore some of Peter's teachings that specifically address how we can grow in our faith and what practical steps we can take to achieve this in our own lives.

QUESTIONS TO EXPLORE:

1. Verses 5 states “**5** But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add...” Can you explain what is the “very reason” referred to by Peter?
2. Are there any other reasons you can think of which help us understand why believers need to progressively seek to grow in their faith?
3. Why would Peter require believers to follow his call to action with “all diligence”?

4. **Verses 5-7:** **5** But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith **virtue**, to virtue **knowledge**, **6** to knowledge **self-control**, to self-control **perseverance**, to perseverance **godliness**, **7** to godliness **brotherly kindness**, and to brotherly kindness **love**.
- a) Discuss the importance of each of these “add-ons” and how they can help or hinder your faith if left unchecked.
 - b) Does the sequence of these ‘add-ons’ matter? If so discuss how and why?
5. **Verse 8:** For if these things are yours and abound, *you* will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. **9** For he who lacks these things is short-sighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.
- a) Discuss what Peter refers to as spiritual bareness and short-sightedness? and why should it matter for one who aspires to live a spirit-filled Christian life?
 - b) How could this link back to 1 Peter 2:2 (*as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby*)

CLOSING REFLECTION & PRAYER

Take time to pray with each other that God will help you to grow in your faith and develop in some of the key areas you may lack in. Pray also for each other that God will strengthen each other in areas of weakness and ask the Holy Spirit to minister into that area.

Useful homework scriptures to further explore:

(Hebrews 5: 11-14, Galatians 5:22-23, Ephesians 4:32, 1 John 4:7-8, 1 John 4:11, 1 John 4:12,)

