2 PETER/JUDE: STAND FIRM

Growing In Truth. Guarding The Faith. Living Ready.

Grow In Grace

2 Peter 3:8–13

BIG IDEA: The best way to stand firm in a changing world is to continue growing in our relationship with Jesus.

1. Live In A Way That Reflects What We Believe

2 Peter 3:14 (NIV)
So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, ***make every effort*** to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him.

2 Peter 1:5 (NIV)
Make every effort to add to your faith…

- Grace is not an excuse to stop growing; grace is the power that makes growth possible.
- What we say we believe should align with how we actually live.
- The question isn't just, "Am I waiting for Jesus?" but "How will Jesus find me waiting?"

Romans 5:1 (NIV)
Since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

- We pursue godliness **from** peace with God, not **for** peace with God.

2. Always Remember: God's Patience Means Salvation

2 Peter 3:15 (NIV)
Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation…

- Each day God waits is another day His grace continues reaching people.

3. Handle Scripture Carefully

2 Peter 3:15–16
Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him. He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters.

2 Peter 3:16a
His letters contain some things that are hard to understand…

2 Peter 3:16
His letters contain some things that are hard to understand ***which ignorant and unstable people distort***, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction.

- Difficult Scripture requires careful study, not careless distortion.

2 Peter 3:16
…ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do ***the other Scriptures***…

2 Peter 1:20-21 (CSB)
Above all, you know this: No prophecy of Scripture comes from the prophet's own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by the will of man; instead, men spoke from God ***as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.***

- To stand firm as we wait, the church must remain firmly rooted in Scripture.

- We approach Scripture open to learning and correction, not just to affirm existing beliefs.

4. Be On Guard Against Spiritual Drift

2 Peter 3:17 (NIV)
Therefore, dear friends, since you have been forewarned, be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of the lawless and fall from your secure position.

- Biblical discernment isn't about distrusting everyone; it's about knowing the truth well enough to recognize error.

- You don't have to choose rebellion to drift away; all it takes is to stop paying attention.

5. Spiritual Growth Is The Antidote To Spiritual Drift

2 Peter 3:18 (NIV)
"But grow…"

- The strongest defense against spiritual drift is sustained spiritual growth.

- A healthy Christian life is defined not just by what we reject, but by who we are becoming.

6. Grow In Grace

2 Peter 3:18 (NIV)
"But grow in the grace…of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ"

- We're saved by grace, sustained by grace, corrected by grace, and transformed by grace.

Titus 2:11-14 (NIV)
For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

7. Grow In The Knowledge Of Jesus

2 Peter 3:18a (NIV)
But grow in the grace and ***knowledge*** of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

2 Peter 1:2 (NIV)

Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

- Christian maturity is all about knowing Jesus more deeply and becoming more like Him.

Philippians 3:10 (NIV)
"I want to know Christ…"

- We grow in knowing Jesus by walking with Jesus.

- Mature Christians are not people who have stopped growing; they're people who never stop growing.

8. In The End, Jesus Is Glorified.

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

- Spiritual maturity moves us from "How does this benefit me?" to "How does this glorify Jesus?"

Six questions for this week:

1. If Jesus returned today, how would he find me?

2. Am I exploiting God's patience or fulfilling God's mission?

3. Am I allowing Scripture to correct me?

4. Where am I most in danger of drifting?

5. Am I still growing?

6. Who is getting the glory from my life?