

Here are some talking points to start using to get your group talking to each other and to start generating meaningful conversations. Remember, you want others to do most of the talking.

Start Talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

Start Thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking. Which part of the message was most impactful to you and why?

Start Sharing & Talking About the message. NOTE: Pastor may not cover all points in all services.

Setting/Open: Peter believers to grow and mature in their faith. Peter went through a transformation when he was filled with the Holy Spirit. He became an example of how to pursue a life of spiritual growth. **Explore Four Principles for Spiritual Growth.**

1. V1-2 What is the first thing Peter wants the readers to grow in? A. Knowledge – a correct, precise, and personal knowledge. An experiential knowledge.
2. What is experiential knowledge? A. It's not intellectual knowledge, but knowing God personally and intimately.
Q. We think we know God, but have we experienced Him? God wants a personal relationship with each one of us through Jesus Christ.
3. V3a **Principle One?** Where does the pursuit of spiritual growth begin? A. It begins with God's **divine power** – being filled with the Holy Spirit. This is the foundation for living a life of godliness. Grk - dunamis: God's divine ability, power, strengthening power. **Acts 1:8**
This power is ours to be witnesses, overcome sin, and live fully for God. Our ability to grow spiritually comes from God, not by our own will, discipline or ability. Hetty Green story: – How many believers are not tapping into God's power?
What is a hinderance to Spiritual Growth? A. We don't take advantage of the power God has given us. What does God's divine power provide? A. "all things that pertain to life and godliness."
4. V4 **Principle Two.** What else has God given us for spiritual growth? A. **His great and precious promises.** Where is the only place for our hope? A. In God alone.
5. V4 **Principle Three.** What do we become as we grow in the knowledge of God? A. **We become partakers of His divine nature.** We take on His attributes. It is a transformation – it is the sanctification process.
6. V5 **Principle Four.** For growth to occur, what part do we play? A. We **"give all diligence."** (NIV – make every effort). Spiritual growth takes work and effort.
7. V5-7 **Review 7 things to add to faith.** (Add = furnish, supply, aid) A. 1) virtue – moral excellence and moral courage (think Daniel); 2) knowledge – of God's Word; 3) self-control – of our passions and emotions; 4) perseverance – steadfastness, patience or endurance; 5) godliness – "God-likeness." Be a reflection of God's attributes; 6) brotherly kindness – brotherly love, friendship; 7) love – agape love: sacrificial love, giving without expectation of getting back. **1Cor 13:4-7** Two most important commandments – **Mark 12:30-31**
9. Why doesn't God tell us how to add these things to our faith? A. God wants our journey of faith to be a walk by faith.

Start Praying & Start Doing. Talk to your group about (1) creating profiles on the Calvary App so your group can create a group chat on the app. Let Pastor Josh know so he can set your group up for you. (2) Encourage your group to read ahead. (3) Please remember to fill out the LIFEgroup meeting assessment form after your meeting. Here is the link: <https://bit.ly/LIFEgroup-Assessment>

LIFEgroups

Talk it over | week 5

discussion | study

The Pursuit of Spiritual Growth

1Peter 2 & 2Peter 1:1-4

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