

The Importance and Process of Personal Growth

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Introduction:

- You, me, us – we all struggle. The nature of the struggle: living _____ with whom we are in Christ.
- Consider the typical day...

A Model for Personal Growth – 2 Peter 1:3-11

Background Context:

- Peter wrote this epistle to _____ Christians (v. 1).
- Peter’s goal is that the believer would become _____ in the understanding and practice of the grace of God in Christ (3:18).
- “Grace and peace be multiplied” _____ KNOWLEDGE Knowledge—intimate and informed _____ as a result of their conversion to Christ that ultimately results in committed living for Christ. (vv. 1-2)

The Reason for Personal Growth: vv. 8-9

- Because there are two choices in life: To be effective and productive or ineffective and unproductive.
 - _____: ineffective
 - _____: unproductive
 - This is in respect to the _____ of our Lord Jesus Christ. Your knowledge of Christ will not be unproductive or unfruitful.
- Why? Because they are _____ the progressive, productive growth in their lives of Christ-like qualities. “if these things be in you and abound” They must abound!
- What has happened?
 1. The believer has _____ to forget!
 - _____ and cannot see afar off: short-sighted, because of shutting his eyes possibly – willfully blind
 - The idea of forgetting is not a mental process but a _____ failure to take into account the true meaning and significance of something.

2. The believer has forgotten the _____ — the death, burial, resurrection plus everything else!
 - Forgotten his _____ in Christ.
 - The ‘ _____ ’ of Christ should spark an unquenchable desire in our lives to be like Him.

The Source of Personal Growth: Our _____ in Christ (vv.3-4)

- The _____ of Christ—“according as his divine power has been given unto us”
 - What power? _____ **Power!**
 - Who has it? _____ believer in Christ has this power — “Has BEEN Given”
 - What have you been given? _____ THAT PERTAINS TO LIFE AND GODLINESS. Not just eternal life – life is today, right now.
 - Where has God provided this? **Abounding in the knowledge of Christ!** The intimate and informed relationship that is the _____ of conversion to the gospel.
- In Christ, all of this is possible. God has given us an honorable status before Him in Christ because of Who Christ is. Christians now experience the fulfillment of those promises (in the generic sense here) and thus have the remarkable _____ of enjoying intimacy with the God of the universe.
- _____ of the promises:
 - You have a _____ with God in Christ – through participating in the divine nature - a new disposition.
 - As we participate, our most significant problem is addressed – _____ . We have escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.
 - I think, then, that Peter sees our participation in the divine nature as consisting especially in the new _____ to resist sin through our union with Christ and the indwelling of the Spirit.

The Pathway of Personal Growth:

Our _____ as an in-Christ person (vv. 5-7)

- “For this reason...” – that is, God’s _____ of all that we need – we are to seek spiritual maturity.

- The goal: _____ – to supply or furnish at your own expense
 - Be _____ to add!
 - The thought: Make _____ effort! It means earnestness, haste, or zeal.
 - Peter’s point is clear: Spiritual growth is not a matter that Christians can treat lightly; it is a _____ to which we need to give ourselves body and soul, every day of our lives.
 - Each virtue is the _____ of producing the next.
- Character Qualities _____ the Pathway
 1. Faith or faithfulness: It is necessary to remain _____ to our benefactor, Jesus Christ. There is a sense of reliability or commitment to God in Christ.
 2. Virtue: Goodness, _____ of character, same word that described Christ in v.3
 3. Knowledge: The ability to _____ God’s will and orient one’s life in accordance with that will.
 4. Self-control: self-discipline to not _____ the physical desires to excess (temperance)
 5. Perseverance: Endurance or steadfastness, the _____ to ‘bear up under’, compound word meaning ‘under’ and ‘remain’.
 6. Godliness: Living like God, _____ Christ-like in attitude and actions.
 7. Brotherly Kindness: Love expressed _____ fellow Christians similar to family affection.
 8. Love: This is the _____ of all the virtues together and makes all the other virtues what they should be (agape).

The Promise of Personal Growth:

- Make every _____ to make your calling and election sure.
 - Strive to live a God-pleasing life with all the _____ God has given to you.
 - You live _____ with whom you are in Christ. It gives you a sense of security as a believer.

Two Results:

- You will never _____ – the idea of ‘fall’ or ‘suffer misfortune’ as a result of _____.

- An entrance into eternity is provided for _____.

**Observations regarding the Importance and Process of Personal Growth
for YOUR Life and YOUR CEs:**

- If you are going to have true hope for transformational personal growth, it begins with a _____ relationship with Jesus Christ.
- God desires for you to be transformed and has made growth possible. He did not leave you hopeless or helpless! There is _____!
- We must use all the means at our disposal to cultivate the Spirit’s power in our lives: Bible study, prayer, Christian worship and fellowship, and so on. The goal is to know Christ and make that knowledge _____ in daily living!
- We must take _____ to make our lives conform as best as we can to the godly image presented in Scripture.
- Consider your attitudes and _____ to see if your life is characterized by the pursuit of Christ.