

Never Stop Growing

2 Peter 1:1-11

April 24, 2022

2 PETER

A LONG OBEDIENCE IN THE SAME DIRECTION

One of the greatest things about God is his eternal nature. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Likewise, our faith has an enduring, unchanging quality. It was “once and for all delivered to the saints.” We love this. We find it so centering and stabilizing. Until we don’t. Until someone challenges that faith; or shares a shortcut to maturing in that faith; or offers an easier path to enjoying that faith; or reimagines that faith altogether in a way that makes it more palatable for a new generation. Then we suddenly find ourselves questioning everything, wondering if this isn’t the ingredient we’ve been missing all along. It can stop our long, slow progress in the faith—or worse, take us off the path entirely. Peter says, “Don’t be fooled. Never stop growing in the tried-and-true grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”

Read 2 Peter 1:1-11. (Better yet, read the entire letter!) Then discuss:

1. In recent years the world has shared thousands of “hacks” for solving problems and just making life more efficient and enjoyable. What are some of your favorites?
2. Do you think there are any legitimate hacks for maturing in your faith, or is it always and forever “a long obedience in the same direction”?
3. After an initial greeting, Peter makes one of the greatest assertions in the Bible: “His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness “ through our knowledge of Christ.
 - What are some of those “things”? Which ones mean the most to you?
 - While stating a great truth, this verse also offers a subtle challenge to any “Jesus plus” thinking; any notion that we need Jesus plus something else to really progress and be blessed. What are some of the “plusses” that have pulled at your heart?
4. The Lord has also granted us “his precious and very great promises.” What are your go-to favorites?
5. Because of all the Lord has given, and because of our hope in being full partakers of his divine nature, Peter urges us all: “Make every effort” to grow. “Be all the more diligent” to confirm your calling.
 - How do these commands strike you? How can we take them as motivating and not burdensome?
 - CFD Moule said, “Spiritual growth is a strangely relaxed kind of strenuousness.” What does that mean? How does that help us?
6. If you were to double-down on one spiritual discipline that could keep you growing in your faith, what would it be? Are you prepared to actually commit to it?