

SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia @10:10 Message...

A Faith That Grows

With Ryan Dawson, Lead Pastor
January 3, 2021
Happy New Year!



How do we grow in Christ-like character?

- **God's Word is essential for spiritual growth...**

2 Peter 1:3-4 (NLT) By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know him, the one who called us to himself by means of his marvellous glory and excellence. ⁴ And because of his glory and excellence, he has given us great and precious promises. These are the promises that enable you to share his divine nature and escape the world's corruption caused by human desires.

- **God has given us everything we need to live for Him.**

- **God enables us to share His divine nature.**

"God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16.

- **God's Spirit helps us escape the world's corruption.**

Romans 8:1-2,5 So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus.² And because you belong to him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death... ⁵ Those who are dominated by the sinful nature think about sinful things, but those who are controlled by the Holy Spirit think about things that please the Spirit. ⁶ So letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to death. But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace.

- **Respond to God's promises with grace-infused effort.**

2 Peter 1:5-7 (NLT) In view of all this, *make every effort* to respond to God's promises. Supplement your faith with a generous provision of moral excellence, and moral excellence with knowledge, ⁶ and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with patient endurance, and patient endurance with godliness, ⁷ and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love for everyone.

- **Grace is free but it is not without fruitfulness.**

"Grace is not against effort, grace is against earning." Dallas Willard

- **There is a blessing and a warning linked to spiritual growth.**

2 Peter 1:8-11 (NLT) The more you grow like this, the more productive and useful you will be in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ But those who fail to develop in this way are shortsighted or blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their old sins. ¹⁰ So, dear brothers and sisters, *work hard to prove* that you really are among those God has called and chosen. Do these things, and you will never fall away. ¹¹ Then God will give you a grand entrance into the eternal Kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

Big Idea: As we begin 2021....

Make every effort to respond to God's promises with grace-infused effort.

- **Reflect on 2020:** "Where did I grow as a person in 2020"?

- **Recommit to spiritual growth in 2021:** "Where does God want me to grow in Christ-likeness"?

100 Days of Impact Missional Challenge: Shovel neighbours driveway.

- **Remember our battle belongs to the Lord:**

2 Chronicles 20:15-17 "This is what the Lord says: Do not be afraid! Don't be discouraged by this mighty army, for the battle is not yours, but God's.¹⁶ Tomorrow, march out against them... ¹⁷ But you will not even need to fight. Take your positions; then stand still and watch the Lord's victory. He is with you... Do not be afraid or discouraged. Go out against them tomorrow, for the Lord is with you!"



Sequoia Impact Communities are where we live out our identity as a Family of Servants on Mission.
 To get plugged in email:
impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org

A Faith That Grows
#9 of 10 - January 3, 2020

1. Which “promise” from the 100 Days of Impact was most significant for you this week and why?
2. Share about your experience this past month with Missional Challenges and how you see God working?
3. Read 2 Peter 1:3-4. What has God given us to help us live for Him, and what are the implications for us? How central are the “promises of God” to your life? What step can you take to lean on these promises even more?
4. Read Romans 8:1-5. How does the Holy Spirit help us overcome temptation and sin so that we can grow in Christ-likeness?
5. Read 2 Peter 1:5-7. What does it mean to “make every effort to respond to God’s promises”? Review the inventory of spiritual growth traits in this passage. Where do you see growth in your life and what areas need special attention in 2021?
6. What are the implications for us in that “grace is not against effort, but against earning”? How does this challenge and encourage you?
7. Read 2 Peter 1:8-11. What is the blessing and the warning present in this passage and how does this relate to our spiritual growth?
8. What steps is God asking you to take to respond to His promises with grace-infused effort? Take time to work through the actions steps below:

- **Reflect on 2020:** “Where did I grow as a person in 2020”?
- **Recommit to spiritual growth in 2021:** “Where does God want me to grow in Christ-likeness”?
- **Remember our battle belongs to the Lord:**
 Read and reflect on 2 Chronicles 20:1-30. What is God saying to you though this story? What battle do you need to entrust to God?

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