



GUIDED BIBLE STUDY

Words Have Meaning: Growing in Faith

Speaker: Tony Orihuela

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Highlighted Scripture

- **2 Peter 1:5-9 (NKJV)**

"But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge,"

Peter calls believers to grow in virtue, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness, and love. These qualities belong together and bear fruit in knowing Jesus. Tony's dictionary exercise invites us to slow down and consider familiar words. Read their meanings within the whole passage: spiritual growth is a response to God's grace, not a way to earn cleansing from sin. Verse 9 warns against forgetting that cleansing.

- **Numbers 6:24-26 (NKJV)**

"The LORD bless you and keep you;"

Tony closes with the language of the priestly blessing. In Numbers, the Lord gives this blessing for His people, asking for His keeping, gracious presence, and peace. Receive the devotional's closing prayer as an invitation to trust God's care while continuing to grow in faithful obedience.

Discussion Questions

- Which quality in 2 Peter 1:5-9 do you recognize as growing in your life, and which needs more deliberate attention? What makes you say so?
- Tony says, 'Words have meaning.' Which familiar spiritual word have you used without pausing to understand it? How might its meaning change your actions?
- How does remembering that you have been cleansed from sin affect the way you pursue spiritual growth? How is that different from trying to earn God's acceptance?
- What do Peter's failure and restoration teach you about repentance, love for Jesus, and caring for others?
- What would Spirit-led perseverance look like in one difficulty you face now, even if the situation does not quickly improve?

Reflection Challenge

This week, return to 2 Peter 1:5-9 slowly. Choose one quality to understand more deeply and practice in a concrete relationship or responsibility. Let the exercise move from definitions on a page to faithful action, without separating the words from their biblical setting.

Ask yourself:

- Am I reading this passage to know Christ more deeply, or simply to gather more information?
- Where do my emotions or habits make self-control and perseverance difficult?
- Who needs to experience brotherly kindness and love through something I do this week?
- Have I allowed a past failure to obscure the Lord's cleansing and invitation to renewed faithfulness?

Try this:

- Read the complete passage aloud twice. Write down the qualities Peter names and notice how they connect.
- Look up one unfamiliar word, then return to the verse and compare the definition with its context. Keep your personal restatement separate from the Bible's exact wording.
- Choose one small act of obedience: pause before responding in frustration, persist in a neglected responsibility, or offer practical kindness to a fellow believer.
- At the week's end, tell someone what you learned about Christ and where you still need His help. Invite encouragement rather than presenting your reflection as a new promise from God.

Remember

- Words have meaning; slow reading can deepen understanding.
- Faith grows into a life marked by virtue, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, kindness, and love.
- Dictionary definitions can assist reflection, but the passage's context governs its meaning.
- Remember the Lord's cleansing instead of trying to earn it.
- Peter's failure did not end Christ's call to faithful service.
- The Spirit's work makes us more like Jesus; perseverance is not dependent on easy circumstances.

Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for Your Word and for the cleansing You give through Jesus. Keep us from rushing past truths we have heard many times. Help us understand them in their setting and respond with humble obedience.

Grow virtue, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness, and love in us. Where we have failed, lead us to honest repentance and renewed service. By Your Spirit, make us more like Christ, and help us remain faithful through difficulty. May our words and actions bring care and encouragement to others.

In Jesus' name, Amen.