



ShalomAZ Ministries

In Pursuit of Israel's Redemption

"In Ever-Increasing Measure"

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Devotion and Discussion Questions

Key Texts: 2 Peter 1:3-8; Matt 23:23-28; Phil. 3:10-14; John 13:12-17; 1 Pet. 5:1-3

Peter's second letter comes with urgency. He knows his time is short, and he's not wasting words. He's writing to believers who are facing a different kind of danger—not just persecution from the outside, but deception from within. False teachers have crept in, peddling a version of faith that disconnects belief from behavior. They've twisted grace into license, knowledge into arrogance, and freedom into indulgence. And Peter's remedy isn't complicated—it's to **know** Yeshua deeply and to **grow** in His character continually.

But this growth isn't a one-time decision or a checklist to complete. It's a lifelong journey. Peter describes it as a process where godly character is being formed *in ever-increasing measure*. That's the focus of this passage. If our faith is real, it's growing. If we know Him, we're becoming like Him. Not perfectly, not instantly—but *progressively*. We're not who we were, and we're not yet who we'll be. But by His grace, we're being transformed.

1. YOU'VE BEEN GIVEN EVERYTHING—NOW GROW INTO IT

Peter begins by grounding our growth in what God has already done. *"His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and virtue"* (v.3). We don't begin with lack—we begin with abundance. God has already made available every resource you need to become who He's calling you to be. You don't need to chase secret knowledge or spiritual shortcuts. You have what you need—now it's time to *grow into it*.

That knowledge Peter talks about isn't surface-level or intellectual. It's *epignōsis*—full, relational knowing. It's walking with Yeshua, learning His heart, and letting His nature transform yours. And when you truly know Him, the fruit begins to grow—not because you're striving in your own strength, but because His nature is now at work in you. The invitation isn't to work harder—it's to walk closer. Closer to the One whose divine power is forming His likeness in you.

2. TRUE FAITH BEARS FRUIT—IN EVER-INCREASING MEASURE

Peter gives us a progression—a list of virtues that are meant to be *increasing* in our lives: faith, virtue, knowledge, self-control, endurance, godliness, brotherly love, and agape love. These aren't personality traits or performance goals—they're evidence of transformation. As we walk with Yeshua, His Spirit forms His nature in us. And Peter is clear: *"If these qualities are in you and are increasing..."* (v.8)—not just present, but *growing*—then you won't be idle or unfruitful.

Growth isn't about reaching perfection—it's about direction. It's about movement. Are you further along than you were last year? Are the signs of Yeshua's nature becoming more visible in your reactions, relationships, and rhythms of life? The fruit

is the proof—not of your effort, but of your connection to the Vine. This isn't about comparison—it's about cooperation with God's Spirit. And it's never static. In His kingdom, *living things grow*.

3. THE GOAL IS NOT ARRIVAL—IT'S ONGOING TRANSFORMATION

Peter doesn't say, "Add a little character, and you're done." He describes a faith that is *never finished growing*. The phrase "*in ever-increasing measure*" means there is no ceiling to how much we can become like Messiah. There's always more of Him to know and more of His character to reflect. And it's that ongoing transformation—not theological accuracy or religious activity—that proves our faith is alive.

The warning Peter gives is sobering: if these qualities *aren't* growing, we risk becoming "idle and unfruitful." But it's not a threat—it's a loving reminder. God isn't after performance—He's after partnership. On this earth, the daily goal of the believer isn't about a finish line you cross each day; it's about a vineyard you stay rooted in. Day by day, season by season, He's pruning, nourishing, shaping, and strengthening you. And as long as you remain in Him, the fruit will follow.

CONCLUSION

The challenge today is simple—but it's serious. If you're connected to the Vine, *stay there*. If you've been distracted, discouraged, or deceived—*come back*. The Lord hasn't stopped investing in your growth. He hasn't changed His mind about you. He's still giving you everything you need. But now, will you choose to grow? Will you let His Spirit shape your character, not just your confession? If your walk with the Lord has felt stagnant, this is your moment to re-root yourself in Him. If you've seen fruit in your life but haven't felt it increasing, ask Him to breathe fresh life into you.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What does Peter mean when he says God has given us "everything we need" for life and godliness?
2. Why is it dangerous to separate spiritual knowledge from godly character?
3. Which of the character traits in verses 5–7 do you find yourself struggling to develop consistently?
4. Which of these qualities do you think the Body of Messiah sometimes neglects, and how can we encourage each other to grow in it?
5. What would "increasing measure" look like practically in your walk with Yeshua?

CLOSING PRAYER:

Abba Father, thank You for not leaving us empty-handed. Thank You for giving us everything we need to live a life that pleases You. You've planted Your Spirit in us, and You invite us to grow—day by day, into the likeness of Your Son. Lord, we confess the times we've settled for knowing *about* You without letting You transform us. We surrender again today—asking You to grow Your fruit in us, to shape our character, to deepen our love, and to keep us from becoming stagnant or unfruitful. Teach us to walk with You—not just for a moment, but for a lifetime.

In the name of Yeshua our Messiah, Amen.