

**2 Peter 1:5-9**

**Main Idea:** We either take the initiative to grow in our faithwalks or grieve lost opportunities for a full life.

**FEAR...it’s an excuse!**

Certainly, there are very valid things to fear in our lives, but many times fear is a word we use when we are just uncomfortable. Fear of public speaking for example. There is probably an actual phobia of public speaking, but the reality is, for the vast majority of us, it is not a phobia. We fear inexperience. However, everything we’ve done in our lives to this point had a first time that we did it. We got through it. We got better at it or learned how to be good enough for what matters. Why are we so scared of engaging our faith that we refuse to start a small group unless someone else is leading it? Why are we so scared to pray in front of others? Why are we so scared to start a family night tradition?

**The Reality: Many of the things we fear in our lives and do anyway lead to something meaningful.**

Our faithwalk is no different. Moses was afraid to speak to Pharaoh. He led his people out of captivity. Paul was afraid on a ship in the Mediterranean. He made it and is responsible for thousands of churches and millions of Jesus followers. The disciples hid in fear in the upper room after Jesus died. God used them to change the world. If you take the initiative, despite your fear, God can change your family, your work and the rest of your world.

**To the Book:**

1. **2 Peter 1:5** – Peter encourages Christians to pull out the stops and let nothing stop them from growth! He starts a list of personal character traits that build upon authentic faith toward maturity. Holy Spirit inspired activity and knowledge are at the beginning of the list.
2. **Vv. 6-7** – The list continues: Discipline, motivation to press on, Christlikeness and love for the community of faith are all among the things Peter lists as part of Christian character. All these things should be worked on at the same time. We don’t master one and then start on the next. After all, we won’t actually master any of them on earth. Like learning to drive, we work on accelerating, turning, slowing down, merging, etc. as we go. If we began with acceleration, the natural starting point and never slowed down, we’d all be in the ditch by now. Our faith is no different.
3. **v. 8** – Peter tells readers that if they stick with it, they will benefit in their faithwalks...which impact everything! Our faith or lack of it leads to how we respond to people at work, at home and everywhere else we go. How we shop, how we approach recreation and everything else is impacted. AND we’re more successful at all of it!
4. **V. 9** – Talk about things to fear! Not working on these things is as hindering as being blind.

**Family Night Big idea – Read Proverbs 16:2-3**

Having a plan is not bad but it is always influenced by our nature, and we cannot fool God when we are being shady. If we will work on doing things God’s way, He will help us at everything we do!

- **Elementary School** – Ask, “This week is Thanksgiving, if we look at everything as an opportunity from God and try to be kind and caring all week, how do you think God will help us?”
- **Middle/ High School** – Ask, “Since this week is Thanksgiving, if we were to look for reasons to express gratitude for everything we encounter, how will we be reflecting God to others? How could our attitudes be helpful to us?”

**Prayer** "Father, help us see things your way. Help us to not be selfish as we make plans and help us remember to be thankful to you for everything. Help us spread joy because of our faith in You! Amen."

**Velocity (Middle and High School Students)**

**Velocity:** No Velocity this week. Happy Thanksgiving!

**Gravity:** No Gravity today.

**Today’s Songs**

*Your Grace is Enough*.....Chris Tomlin  
*A Thousand Hallelujahs*.....Brooke Ligertwood  
*Your Love Never Fails*.....Jesus Culture

**Kenya Correspondence**

You can now correspond with the student you sponsored. There is a mailbox in the hallway for your letters, cards, and pictures. Everything needs to be flat and 11x14 or smaller. We will send to Kenya monthly.

**Poinsettia Sale**

In the lobby. Cost is \$35 and due when you sign up. They will be displayed on stage throughout the holidays.

**GCC Christmas Gift List**

Tell a staff member of any family you know that would welcome gifts this year.

**Women’s Mentoring Program Meeting**

Next Sunday between the services in the Community Room.

**Deck the Halls**

Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> at 4:30pm. Check out KidsJAM sign in table if you can donate any items for Gingerbread Houses.