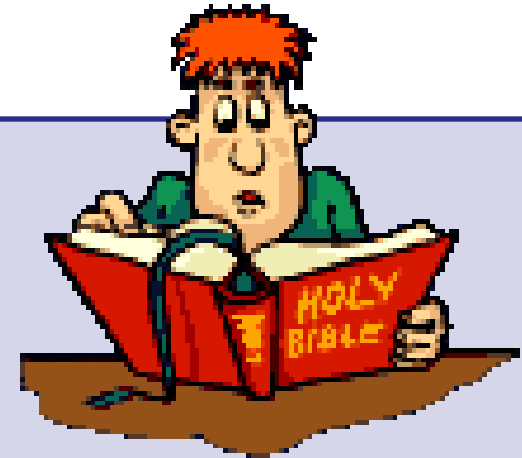




GUIDANCE FOR GROWING CHRISTIANS



2 Peter 1:2

26 August 2018



2 Peter 1:2

2 Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

Peter in his first letter wrote to comfort and encourage believers in the midst of suffering and persecution – external onslaught.

Three years later the apostle, writes to warn them of an internal attack – complacency and heresy.

- 1. He speaks of holding fast to the non-negotiable facts of the faith.**
- 2. He encourages growth.**
- 3. He stimulates them to mature in the faith.**
- 4. He teaches them to reject all who would distort the truth.**

5. He advises, following these would ensure:

 **Christ-honouring individuals.**

 **Christ-centered churches.**

1. DESIRE TO GROW COMES FROM WITHIN.

a) Jesus calls it “hunger and thirst”.

 **Matthew 5:6.**

6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

b) David calls it “the one thing”.

 **Psalm 27:4.**

**4 One thing I ask from the LORD,
this only do I seek: that I may
dwell in the house of the LORD
all the days of my life, to gaze
on the beauty of the LORD and
to seek him in his temple.**

c) Paul calls it “that I know Him”.

 **Philippians 3:10.**

10 I want to know Christ - yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death,

d) Moses calls it “teach me your ways”.

 Exodus 33:13.

13 If you are pleased with me, teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favor with you. Remember that this nation is your people.”

2. POWER TO GROW COMES FROM WITHOUT.

a) Jesus calls it “life abundance”.

 **John 10:10.**

10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

b) Paul calls it:

i. A preparation of God's people.

ii. Different kinds of gifts from the same Spirit.

iii. Different kinds of service from the same Lord.

iv. Different kinds of working from the same God.



1 Corinthians 12:4-6.

- 4 There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them.**
- 5 There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord.**
- 6 There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.**

v. A manifestation of the Spirit given for the common good.

 **Vs 7.**

7 Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.

vi. A given through the Spirit.

 **Vs 8.**

8 To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit,

3. WHEN WE GATHER AS A CONGREGATION.

a) There is a hymn.

b) There is a word of instruction.

c) There is a revelation.

d) There is a tongue.

e) There is an interpretation.



1 Corinthians 14:26.

26 What then shall we say, brothers and sisters? When you come together, each of you has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. Everything must be done so that the church may be built up.

f) A taking care of God's church.



1 Timothy 3:5.

5 (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?)

g) A teaching.

h) An encouragement.

i) A rebuke.

j) An exercise of authority.

 **Titus 2:15.**

15 These, then, are the things you should teach. Encourage and rebuke with all authority. Do not let anyone despise you.

k) A knowing of the Holy Scriptures.

I) An all scripture is God-breathed.



2 Timothy 3:15-17.

- 15** and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.
- 16** All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,
- 17** so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.