

Assurance of Salvation  
Part 116

GROWING IN GRACE  
– The Importance of  
"Knowledge"

**GROWING IN GRACE ...**

The importance of:



**"KNOWLEDGE"**

Not just knowledge that you "know,"  
but knowledge that you "live."

The word "GRACE" occurs only twice  
in the book of 2 Peter.

Both times it is connected with  
the concept of "KNOWLEDGE."

**GRACE, CONNECTED TO A FACT:**  
May grace and peace be multiplied to  
you through the knowledge of God  
and of Jesus our Lord.  
2 Peter 1:2 (HCSB)

**GRACE, CONNECTED TO A COMMAND:**  
But grow in the grace and knowledge of  
our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.  
2 Peter 3:18a (WEB)

At the BEGINNING  
of the book.

At the END  
of the book.

2  
Peter connects  
GRACE and  
KNOWLEDGE.

Chapter 1

What else does Peter say  
about knowledge?

How important is knowledge?

**KNOWLEDGE – It is totally necessary.  
We must have it!**

- It's the foundation for everything we receive from God.
- We have an obligation to grow in knowledge.
- [A reminder: The knowledge found in Scripture is not of human origin.]

**FOUNDATION: Knowledge is the foundation  
for receiving God's great gifts!**

- Everything we need for life and godliness!

His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.  
2 Peter 1:3 (NIV)

- (v. 4) What God has done enables us to:
  - Share in God's holy and righteous (moral) nature.
  - Escape the world's corrupt ways.

**OBLIGATION: These gifts come with an obligation to grow in godly character.**

✦ How else do you think we can share in God's holy and righteous nature? ✦

- Even the knowledge must grow.

For this very reason, [because of God's gifts and promises] make every effort to add to your faith ... knowledge... [and several other godly character traits].

2 Peter 1:5, also 6a (NET)

**We must grow ... (1)**

- ONLY THEN will our "saving knowledge" be of value.

If you have these qualities and they are increasing, it demonstrates that your knowledge about our Lord Jesus Christ is living and productive .

2 Peter 1:8 (GW)

**We must grow ... (2)**

- ONLY THEN will our "assurance of salvation" be genuine.

Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For **if you do these things, you will never fall**, and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

2 Peter 1:10-11 (NIV)

**We must grow ... (3)**

- This issue is so important that we need to constantly remind ourselves of it.

Therefore, I intend to keep on reminding you about these things, even though you already know them and are firmly established in the truth that you now have.

And I will make every effort to see that you will always remember these things after I am gone.

2 Peter 1:12, 15 (ISV)

**P.S. - The knowledge found in Scripture is not of human origin.**

- People did not invent it.  
Prophets did not change it.

Know this first, that written prophecy does not come from the reasoning of the prophet himself.

For no prophecy ever came by the will of man, but by men carried along by the Holy Spirit who spoke from God.

2 Peter 1:20-21 (ULB)

?  
If we must know and grow ...

Chapter 2

(and Scripture says that we must)

What about people who don't have this knowledge and growth?

**These people are the FAKES.**

- **Peter describes them as:**
  - False teachers (if they are teaching).
  - People who have been led astray and are enslaved by error.
  - Wicked, ungodly, etc.
- **They are described as not having knowledge ("present tense").**
  - They may have had knowledge ("past tense"); but if they did, they threw it away.

- **DISTORTION:** The FAKES will distort the KNOWLEDGE of Scripture .
  - They did it in the past; they do it now.

But there were also false prophets among the people [*in the past*], just as there will be false teachers among you [*now*].

They will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, and will bring swift destruction on themselves.

2 Peter 2:1 (HCSB)

- **DECEPTION:** The FAKES will attract many followers.

- They will turn away from the truth.
- They will speak against the truth.

Many will follow their shameful ways and will bring the way of truth into disrepute.

In their greed these teachers will exploit you with stories they have made up.

2 Peter 2:2-3a (NIV)

- **DEPARTURE:** Unwilling to grow in knowledge, they turned their backs to it, and threw it away.

It would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness than to know it and turn their backs on the holy commandment that was committed to them.

2 Peter 2:21 (ISV)

Of them the proverbs are true: "A dog returns to its vomit," and, "A sow that is washed goes back to her wallowing in the mud."

2 Peter 2:22 (NIV)

- The things they say about the truth are based on ignorance.

But these people ... speak blasphemies about things they don't understand, ...

2 Peter 2:12a (HCSB)

- **DESTRUCTION:** The FAKES have only a horrible judgment to look forward to.

... the Lord knows how to ... hold the unrighteous for the day of judgment, while continuing their punishment.

2 Peter 2:9 (NIV)



Since all this is true....

## Chapter 3



How must we respond?

What is our obligation?

**Our OBLIGATION:  
We are to GROW.**

- **BEWARE:**  
The **FAKES** will continue to distort and suppress the KNOWLEDGE of Scripture.
- **GROW:**  
**WE** must use the KNOWLEDGE of Scripture to grow in grace!

**BEWARE: The FAKES will continue being fake.**

- They will be present – and increasing in number, as we get closer to the "last days."

Above all, **understand** this: In the last days blatant scoffers will come, being propelled by their own evil urges and saying,

"Where is his promised return? For ever since our ancestors died, all things have continued as they were from the beginning of creation."

2 Peter 3:3-4 (NET)

- They will deliberately reject historical truth.  
– *This includes the historical truth about Creation and the Flood.*

They *willfully ignore* this: Long ago the heavens and the earth were brought about from water and through water by the word of God.

Through these waters the world of that time perished when it was flooded.

But by the same word, the present heavens and earth are stored up for fire, being kept until *the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.*

2 Peter 3:5-7 (HCSB)

Do YOU know anyone like this?

**BE CAREFUL: We must be careful in the way we treat Scripture.**

- Some parts of the truth may be more difficult to understand than other parts.
- Take, for example, Paul's letters:

His letters contain some things that are hard to **understand**, ...

2 Peter 3:16b (NIV)

- The FAKES are going to distort these "difficult" truths... *just like they do the "easier" parts of Scripture.*

[Paul's letters] ... which ignorant and unstable people *distort*, as they do the other Scriptures, *to their own destruction.*

2 Peter 3:16c (NIV)

**We have been warned!**

★ So what should we do? ★

- **BE ON GUARD:** Since we know this, we need to be on our guard.

Therefore, dear friends, since you already **know** this, be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of lawless men and fall from your secure position.

2 Peter 3:17 (NIV)

- **BE GROWING:** We also need to GROW.

But grow in the grace and **knowledge** of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

2 Peter 3:18a (NIV)

## Your mission: **CHOOSE!**

You have only 3 options:

**#1 GROW IN GRACE AND KNOWLEDGE.**

**#2 BE A FAKE.**

**#3 ADMIT THAT YOU REJECT GOD'S WORD.**

## Your mission: **CHOOSE!**

Just remember that if you choose:

**#1 GROW IN GRACE AND KNOWLEDGE.**

It will require something from you.

Then [Jesus] said to them all, "If anyone wants to become my follower, he must deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow me.

Luke 9:23 (NET)

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