

Growing In the Knowledge of the Lord

2Peter 3:17-18, 1:5-10

Growing In the Knowledge of the Lord

- 2Peter 3:17-18 - “You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked; 18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.”

Growing In the Knowledge of the Lord

- 2Peter 1:5-11 - “But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, 6 to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, 7 to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. 8 For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. 10 Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; 11 for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”

Growing In the Knowledge of the Lord

- Diligence is from spoude and it means: “speed, dispatch, eagerness, earnestness, earnest care, diligence, forwardness, haste, zeal” (Strong’s)
- To grow in the knowledge of Jesus Christ requires considerable effort. We do not accidentally or naturally develop these qualities
- We may have been Christians for a number of years. But unless we continue to grow, we are simply repeating our first year over again

Why Should We Grow In The Knowledge Of The Lord?

- Failure to grow in the knowledge of the Lord results in spiritual myopia and amnesia
 - 2Peter 1:9 - “For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.”
- What is the primary objective of being a Christian in this world?
 - To be forgiven?
 - To go to heaven?

Why Should We Grow In The Knowledge Of The Lord?

- To become like Christ
 - Rom. 8:29 - “For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.”
 - Col. 3:9-10 - “Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, 10 and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him”

Why Should We Grow In The Knowledge Of The Lord?

- This is what is meant by growing in the knowledge of Christ; it is far more than the simple view that it just means ***learning more about*** Jesus. It is ***being more like*** Jesus.

Why Should We Grow In The Knowledge Of The Lord?

- We will never stumble
 - 2Peter 1:10 - “Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble”
- This does not mean we will never sin
 - 1John 1:8-10 - “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.”

Why Should We Grow In The Knowledge Of The Lord?

- Stumble is ptaio and means “to fall into misery, become wretched; to lose ones salvation” (Thayer). “To trip, to err, sin, to fail of salvation, fall, offend, stumble” (Strong's)
- We will never stumble so completely as to fall short of our eternal salvation, not our current state of being saved

Why Should We Grow In The Knowledge Of The Lord?

- Entrance into the everlasting kingdom will be supplied
 - 2Peter 1:11 - “For so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”
- The everlasting kingdom is the heavenly kingdom
 - 2Tim. 4:18 - “And the Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for His heavenly kingdom.”

Why Should We Grow In The Knowledge Of The Lord?

- What is meant by an abundant entrance?
 - “You may be able to enter, not as having escaped from a shipwreck, or from fire, but as it were in triumph.” (Bengel)
- We will live victoriously in this life and joyously anticipate what is ahead
 - 2Tim. 4:6-8 - “For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.”

How Do We Obtain The Glory Of Our Lord?

- 2Thes. 2:13-14 - “But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth, 14 to which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.”
- 2Thes. 1:11-12 - “Therefore we also pray always for you that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfill all the good pleasure of His goodness and the work of faith with power, 12 that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.”

How Do We Obtain The Glory Of Our Lord?

- It is important to understand that as we conform to the image of the Lord, we reflect His glory in our own lives. Jesus said so.
 - Matt. 5:14, 16 - “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden... 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”

How Do We Obtain The Glory Of Our Lord?

- We obtain this glory by:
- Being chosen
 - Eph. 1:4-5 - “Just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, 5 having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will”
 - 2Thes. 2:13 - “But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth”

How Do We Obtain The Glory Of Our Lord?

- By being set apart by the Spirit - 2Thes. 2:13
 - Titus 3:5 - “Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit”

How Do We Obtain The Glory Of Our Lord?

- By faith - 2Thes. 2:13
 - 2Thes. 1:10 - “When He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed.”
- By the gospel
 - 2Thes. 2:14 - “To which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

How Do We Obtain The Glory Of Our Lord?

- When the Gospel, revealed by the Holy Spirit to set us apart from our sins, was believed by hearers who responded to the call by obeying it, they were saved from their sins and returned to the state of glory Adam had before he sinned.

How Do We Obtain The Glory Of Our Lord?

- We obtain this glory by:
- Standing fast
 - 1Cor. 15:58 - “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord”
 - Phil 4:1 - “Therefore, my beloved and longed-for brethren, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, beloved.”

How Do We Obtain The Glory Of Our Lord?

- Hold the apostles' teaching
 - 2Thes. 2:15 - “Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle.”
 - Acts 2:42 - “And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.”
 - 1Cor. 11:2 - “Now I praise you, brethren, that you remember me in all things and keep the traditions just as I delivered them to you.”

How Do We Obtain The Glory Of Our Lord?

- Cherish the comfort of God's love and grace
 - 2Thes. 2:16-17 - “Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and our God and Father, who has loved us and given us everlasting consolation and good hope by grace, 17 comfort your hearts and establish you in every good word and work.”

How Do We Obtain The Glory Of Our Lord?

- It equals or exceeds our suffering
 - 2Cor. 1:3-5 - “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. 5 For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also abounds through Christ.”

How Do We Obtain The Glory Of Our Lord?

- It is enough to keep us stable in the Lord
 - 1Peter 5:10 - “But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you.”
- “Even in our sleep, pain which cannot forget falls drop by drop upon the heart until, in our own despair, and against our will, comes wisdom through the awesome grace of God.” (Aeschylus, 524 BC)

How Do We Obtain The Glory Of Our Lord?

- Our steadfastness under trial and temptation is prima fascia evidence that we have grown in our knowledge of the Lord, that we are growing into the image of God, and in so doing, that we are showing His glory in our lives.

How Do We Obtain The Glory Of Our Lord?

- 1Peter 4:12-13, 16 - “Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; 13 but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy... 16 Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter.”