

# Growth Matters

Family Matters | August 18, 2024

**2 Peter 1:8-9 (NLT)**—*The more you grow like this, the more productive and useful you will be in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But those who fail to develop in this way are shortsighted or blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their old sins.*

## MAIN POINT

Our growth proves who we rely on.

## HOW DO WE GROW TO BECOME MORE GODLY?

### 1. Growth always begins with us.

**Philippians 3:12**—*Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.*

**2 Peter 1:3-4 (NLT)**—*By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know him, the one who called us to himself by means of his marvelous glory and excellence. And because of his glory and excellence, he has given us great and precious promises. These are the promises that enable you to share his divine nature and escape the world's corruption caused by human desires.*

### 2. Remember that God is active in His promises.

**2 Peter 3:9**—*The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.*

**2 Peter 3:13**—*But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.*

**2 Peter 1:5-7 (NLT)**—*In view of all this, make every effort to respond to God's promises. Supplement your faith with a generous provision of moral excellence, and moral excellence with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with patient endurance, and patient endurance with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love for everyone.*

### 3. Our response must be dependent effort.

**Romans 8:13**—*For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.*

**2 Peter 1:8-15 (NLT)**—*The more you grow like this, the more productive and useful you will be in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But those who fail to develop in this way are shortsighted or blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their old sins.*

*So, dear brothers and sisters, work hard to prove that you really are among those God has called and chosen. Do these things, and you will never fall away. Then God will give you a grand entrance into the eternal Kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*

*Therefore, I will always remind you about these things—even though you already know them and are standing firm in the truth you have been taught. And it is only right that I should keep on reminding you as long as I live. For our Lord Jesus Christ has shown me that I must soon leave this earthly life, so I will work hard to make sure you always remember these things after I am gone.*

### 4. Continually be reminded.

**2 Peter 1:8-9 (NLT)**—*The more you grow like this, the more productive and useful you will be in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But those who fail to develop in this way are shortsighted or blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their old sins.*

## COMMIT TO ONE AREA OF GROWTH

Faith

Moral Excellence

Knowledge

Self-Control

Patient Endurance

Godliness

Brotherly Affection

*All verses quoted in English Standard Version unless otherwise noted.*

Rewatch today's message online at [bcachurch.com/messages](http://bcachurch.com/messages).

# STUDY GUIDE: 8/18/24

Begin your group with prayer. Have one or two people share a testimony from their week. Keep it positive and reflect on the good things God has done.

## STUDY QUESTIONS

1. What does “growth” mean to you personally, both in your spiritual life and in other areas like work or relationships? How has your understanding of growth evolved from when you were younger to now?
2. Reflect on a time when you felt like an “impostor” or struggled to grow in your faith. How did you handle that situation, and what did you learn from it?
3. According to 2 Peter 1:3-4, how do God’s promises help us grow spiritually and escape the world’s corruption? Can you share an example of a promise that has impacted your life?
4. How does being part of a small group help in your spiritual growth? How can we as a group hold each other accountable in our journey towards spiritual maturity?
5. From the list of virtues mentioned in 2 Peter 1:5-7 (faith, moral excellence, knowledge, self-control, patient endurance, godliness, brotherly affection, love), which area do you feel you need to focus on right now? Why?
6. What specific commitment are you willing to make today to foster growth in your life? How will you track your progress and ensure you remain accountable?
7. Take time to walk through the prayer needs of the group and close in a time of corporate prayer.