

Free in Christ!
Free to Grow
Sunday, May 22, 2022

2 Peter 3: 13-18 NASB

¹³But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells. ¹⁴Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found spotless and blameless by Him, at peace, ¹⁵and regard the patience of our Lord *as* salvation; just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you, ¹⁶as also in all *his* letters, speaking in them of these things, in which there are some things that are hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as *they do* also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction. ¹⁷You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard so that you are not carried away by the error of unscrupulous people and lose your own firm commitment, ¹⁸**but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.** To Him *be* the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

1. **In Truth**

Philippians 1: 9-10 May your love abound more in knowledge and insight.
2 Timothy 2:15 Accurately handle the Word of Truth.
1 Peter 2:2-3 Crave pure spiritual milk so you may grow up in your salvation.

2. **In Grace**

2 Corinthians 9:8 God is able to make all grace overflow to you...
1 Corinthians 15:10 By the grace of God I am what I am.
Ephesians 4:15 Speaking truth in love we will grow to become the mature body in Him.

3. **In Faith**

Romans 10:17 Faith comes by hearing, hearing by the Word of God.
James 1:22 Do not merely listen to the Word, do what it says.
2 Corinthians 5:7 We walk by faith, not by sight.

Conclusion: In Christ, we are not only saved from our sin, we are free to grow in the likeness of Him. May we heed Peter's counsel and grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus so we may reach the fullness of Christ in us. *THIS is living life abundant in Christ.* This is how we taste and see the Lord is good.

LIFE GROUP LESSON
Free to Grow
Week of May 22 – May 28, 2022

Ice Breaker: Does the thought of growing in knowledge of the Lord excite you or overwhelm you? Why either way?

Read 2 Peter 3: 13-18.

1. What are we to keep our focus on and our hope in? (v.13)
2. Is there action we are to take in our walk with Christ? (v.14)
3. How are we to view our waiting for Christ's return? (v.15)
4. Is that a focus on self or on others?
5. How can our waiting, grow us in our maturity as a Christian?
6. What does Peter reveal about some of Paul's teachings? (v.16)
7. Just because some words may be hard to understand should we avoid them? How can we learn to understand them more fully?
8. What is the warning given by Peter? (v.16)
9. What is the outcome for those who mishandle God's Word? (v.16)
10. What is the command to us as followers of Christ? (v.17)
11. How do we stand firm in our faith and handle His Word in truth? (v.18)
12. Who is glorified as we grow in our understanding of Jesus and His ways?
13. Read Philippians 1: 9-10. What is Paul's prayer for us? What does he desire our love to abound in? What benefit is this to us?
14. Read 2 Timothy 2:15 Do we have a responsibility to read and learn God's Word? Will we be accountable to our own diligence?
15. Read 1 Peter 2:2-3. Is believing in Jesus enough? What does God desire for His children who believe? Why?
16. Read 2 Corinthians 9:8. Do we have any legitimate excuse as to why we lack knowledge, understanding and maturity in Christ? What does God provide for us as we pursue knowing Him more?
17. Read 1 Corinthians 15:10. You have a call on your life and a purpose to fulfill. What is given to you to accomplish that purpose?
18. Read Ephesians 4:15. What is required to become the mature body of Him, who is Christ?
19. Read Romans 10:17, James 1:22 and 2 Corinthians 5:7. How do we grow to maturity in Christ? Will you embrace the freedom to grow?

Point to ponder: We are God's beautiful garden. He like us, wants to see the full blossoming of His garden, the immense potential of the seeds planted in full bloom. This is our gift and freedom in Christ-to blossom and grow to maturity in Him. Let us walk in this freedom as we seek Him.