

TOPIC	I want to grow but how?	SPEAKER	Ps Low Kok Guan
THEME	Lessons from 2 Peter	DATE	12 & 13 June 2021

MESSAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

2 Peter was the last letter that Apostle Peter wrote to the church to address false teachings spreading in Asia Minor. He urged believers to focus on the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ (2 Peter 1:3).

HOW TO GROW

How can we be sure that we are growing in the Lord?

1. Remember the Revealed Word

Peter knew that he was going to die, so he wanted to remind the church of the importance of being continually established (strengthened) in the truth (2 Peter 1:12-15).

We often already know the truth, but we need regular reminders. Psalms 19:7-11 describes the Word of God as perfect, trustworthy, right, radiant, pure, firm. It is more precious than gold and sweeter than honey. Therefore, we need to find ways to help us remember what God has done for us and what He has revealed to us before.

One way is to keep a journal. We can use the following questions to help us frame our thoughts as we write:

- What can I thank God for?
- What is God saying to me from our Bible reading or sermons?
- What have I learned about God?
- What questions do I have?

The main benefit of keeping a journal is that we can reread our previous journal entries and be reminded of our journey and growth in the Lord.

Some other ways we can use to remember:

- Hand illustration: Hear, Read, Study, Memorise, Meditate, Do
- Pray the Word
- Re-watch sermons

• Teach and share what you have learned in cell or with others

2. Experience the Living Word

Peter explained that what he knew about Jesus Christ are not myths, like Roman or Greek stories (2 Peter 1:16-18). Peter, James, John were first-hand witnesses of Jesus' transfiguration (Matthew 17:1-8, Mark 9:2-8, Luke 9:28-36). They saw Jesus' glory with their eyes and heard God's voice with their ears – the Word of God came alive for them (2 Peter 1:19, John 1:14). The experience changed them forever.

We need to **experience** God for ourselves. How have you experienced the reality of God recently? Remember our God who protects, provides, comforts, enables, and is with us in good times and bad times, through all milestones.

3. Anticipate the Prophetic Word

Peter exhorted believers to pay attention to the lamp in the darkness, while waiting in anticipation for the morning star to rise in your hearts (2 Peter 1:19-21). The lamp refers to the prophetic Word of God (Ps 119:105) and darkness refers to the fallen world. We should hold fast to the Word as we anticipate the second coming of the Lord Jesus, the morning star (Rev 22:16). We must keep vigilant and not miss the coming of the Lord.

The prophetic Word of God in our hearts and the power of the Holy Spirit will help us guard against false teachings (2 Peter 1:20). We need both the holy Scriptures and the Holy Spirit so that we can hold fast and continue to grow.

What do we look forward to e.g. life post-Covid? Do we look forward to the Lord's coming and remember that this world is not our home?

CONCLUSION

Whatever situation we are in, we must continue to find ways to grow until the Word of Christ dwells in us richly (Col 3:16).

If we truly desire to grow, R-E-A-D:

- Remember the Revealed Word
- Experience the Living Word
- Anticipate the Prophetic Word
- Do as the Word says

QUESTIONS

1. The entire Bible is the revealed Word of God. Therefore it is important for us to read the Bible regularly. What are some hindrances to your personal time with God? What habits can you change or adopt to help you remember and study the revealed Word of God?

2. 2 Peter 1:16-18 exhorts us to experience the Living Word. How has the Living Word been a pillar of support and comfort to you during challenging seasons? What changes do you see in yourself as you proclaim and declare the Living Word over your situation?

3. In which area of your life (family, ministry, career, finance, education, health, relationship, etc.) do you need God's prophetic Word to rise? What are some struggles you face when it comes to trusting God in today's reality?