

Growing in Faith

Welcome to Harvest Community Church

Series: Epic Faith

Text: 2 Peter 1:5-10, Hosea 4:6a

Personal and spiritual growth are at the heart of walking by faith. Each person grows at their own pace but all of us can follow a predictable path of growth as surely as we move from one grade level to the next in our formal education. Not all of us **learn** the same way but we all follow the same principle progression. This path is found in our key verse. The process is: add to your faith virtue and to virtue, knowledge.

It is the purity of desire, the goodness of our walk and the quality of our commitment that allows us to receive knowledge or **truth**. If the area of faith and trust are not settled and if we are not living holy and set apart for God, we will not be able to take the next step of growing in knowledge, truth and wisdom. **sequence** is important. **2 Peter 1:5 (AMP)**

Peter identifies himself as a **servant** and as an apostle. He never lets go of his identity as a servant and a disciple. A disciple is a student and a learner. They are always serving and **growing**. One of the traits of a follower of Christ is a dedication to be a lifelong learner. Grace and peace are multiplied in our life as we have knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. As we know Christ, our **hunger** to know Him more and learn from Him will naturally increase.

Psalm 34:8, Matthew 5:6, Matthew 11:29

Walking by faith and not by sight happens as we are **led** by the Holy Spirit. Proof of a Spirit led life is growing in the knowledge and understanding of Jesus. This is really the main purpose of the Holy Spirit. **John 14:26 (AMP) - *But the Helper (Comforter, Advocate, Intercessor—Counselor, Strengtheners, Standby), the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name [in My place, to represent Me and act on My behalf], He will teach you all things. And He will help you remember everything that I have told you.***

As you can see, the Holy Spirit is a lot of things but His main thing is to **teach** and to lead us to **Jesus** and into all truth. **John 14:6-7, John 16:13** We must remember that the Holy Spirit is also the Spirit of Revelation. **Ephesians 1:17 (NIV)** Revelation knowledge is true illumination and understanding and insight first of all of Jesus and His ways and then into all things.

1 John 5:6, Isaiah 30:21

Revelation knowledge is more than intellectual and educational, it is **transformational**. **Romans 12:2-3** Many people assume that revelation knowledge is an unveiling of the future. We must not confuse a revelation with the prophetic. The book of Revelation is first and foremost an unveiling of Jesus Christ. If we do not have correct knowledge of Jesus we cannot have a correct understanding of anything, including ourselves.

God has given us **everything** we need in the person of Jesus. **2 Peter 1:3-4 (NKJV, AMP)** He has given us everything we need for our physical **life** and our spiritual life. The greatest hindrance to a life of faith after unbelief is a lack of knowledge. **Hosea 4:6a**

Above all things we need to grow in our knowledge of the **Holy** One. (The Trinity- Father, Son and Holy Spirit). **Proverbs 9:10**

The next area we need to increase in is wisdom which is knowledge correctly applied to life. **Proverbs 4:5-9** Wisdom brings success and blessing to every area of our life. Wisdom helps us to live in our knowledge of Christ. It helps us to apply Christ-like principles to every area of our life. We grow in our skills, our work, our relationships; we increase in understanding of Spiritual truths and God's established laws.

Wisdom gives us discernment which helps us to understand how spiritual principles are affecting natural daily activities. It helps us to understand what kind of Spirit is at work, God's, man's or the devil. **Proverbs 15:21, Philippians 1:9-10, Hosea 14:9, Hebrews 5:14**

Faith by itself will step out but only so far. It is knowledge combined with our faith that helps us do extraordinary things in the name of Jesus. **Daniel 11:32b** There is no such thing as blind faith because faith is educated and has revelation. Faith without knowledge of God is simply presumption.

Knowledge of the Holy One brings understanding about God and about ourselves. Knowing the truth about Jesus helps us to know the truth about who we are so that we can live in freedom. **John 8:32**

It is important that we honestly assess how effective and fruitful we are in our knowledge of Jesus Christ. **1 Corinthians 4:4** The truth is we all have issues. We need to allow God to heal us, strengthen us and finish the work He has begun in us. **Galatians 6:3-4**

Here are some questions we need to allow God to help us to answer:

- What am I afraid of? What areas of unbelief and lack of love are in my life?
- What am I struggling with? What areas of temptation, stubbornness or lack of skill do I need to address.
- What haunts me from my past?
- What area of opportunity or challenge am I facing?

When you admit that something needs to change, change it. **James 4:17**

As you are honest about areas of truth in your life ask God to apply His way, His Truth and His life to those areas. **James 1:5** Many times it is as we allow God to deal with our deepest areas that we grow in our knowledge and understanding of Him.

Part of growing in knowledge involves the area of correction. Many of us are set in our ways, being Spirit led means we are committed to being directed and corrected into His ways. Some of God's direction is discipline, most of it is simply a course correction and this is for our good. The only things that will stand in the way of our growth and learning is pride that refuses to relent, stubbornness that is un-teachable or a lack of listening.

Matthew 13:15, Proverbs 12:1, Proverbs 15:31-33, Hebrews 12:11, Ephesians 4:15-16

Add to your faith virtue and to virtue knowledge.

- Trust God.
- Live for God.
- Know God and understand His ways.

The next step add to knowledge self-control.