

Growth

When is growth natural/automatic?

When does growth take determined effort?

How about growth as a Christian?

1

Making Every Effort

2 Peter 1:1-15

ref.ly/2P1;niv



2

1 Peter 1:1-2 / 2 Peter 1:1-2

Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, To God's elect, exiles scattered throughout the provinces of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia, ² who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be obedient to Jesus Christ and sprinkled with his blood:

To those who through the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ have received a faith as precious as ours

Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

3

³ His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. ⁴ Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

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⁵ For this very reason, **make every effort to add** to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; ⁶ and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; ⁷ and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love.

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⁸ For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being **ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.** ⁹ But whoever does not have them is nearsighted and blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their past sins.

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¹⁰ Therefore, my brothers and sisters, **make every effort to confirm your calling and election.** For if you do these things, you will never stumble, ¹¹ and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

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¹² So I will always remind you of these things, even though you know them and are firmly established in the truth you now have. ¹³ I think it is right to **refresh your memory** as long as I live in the tent of this body, ¹⁴ because I know that I will soon put it aside, as our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me. ¹⁵ And I will make every effort to see that after my departure you will **always be able to remember these things.**

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The Big Idea

The normal Christian life
requires intentional determined growth
by the power of the Holy Spirit

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Core Value

We believe that the Gospel addresses the whole person, including **head** (that is, knowledge and ever deepening theology), **heart** (that is, rich fellowship with God and people), and **hands** (that is, love for God and people put into action). (Luke 10:27-28; Mark 12:28-34)

<https://www.crosswaymchurch.org/core-values/>

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God's power AND our effort

Growth is from and through His power
AND our every effort

"God's grace should not lead to moral relaxation
but to intense effort"

"Therefore, my dear friends...continue to **work
out your salvation with fear and trembling**, for it
is **God who works in you to will and to act** in
order to fulfill his good purpose."

Philippians 2:12-13

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Putting it into practice

- **Choose to grow in Christ!**
 - **Determined:** make every effort
 - **Intentional:** Add to your faith knowledge...
self-control...perseverance...godliness...
mutual affection...love
 - **Grace:** through knowledge of Jesus
by the power of the Spirit

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Putting it into practice

- **Choose to grow in Christ!**
 - Worship services
 - Serving together
 - Small group (Life Groups, Conversations, ...)
 - Discipling friendships (with 1-3 others)
 - Personally with God

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Putting it into practice

- **Challenge: Where should YOU be growing?**
 - By August 15...
 - I want to stop...
 - I want to be doing... **Pick 1 or 2...or 3**
 - I want to change...
 - I want to have done...
 - Pray daily
 - Scripture: memorize, meditate, ...
 - Action items for this month
 - Find someone to do periodic check-ins

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15

*His divine power has given us everything
we need for a godly life through our
knowledge of him who called us by his
own glory and goodness.*

2 Peter 1:3

“For this very reason, make every effort...”

16

“Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but **I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.** Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, **I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.**”

Philippians 3:12-14