

Making Every Effort

2 Peter 1:1-15



Growth

When is growth natural/automatic?
When does growth take determined effort?
How about growth as a Christian?

2 Peter 1

- 1-2
- 3-4
- 5-7
- 8-9
- 10-11
- 12-15

The Big Idea

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

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/>

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

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

Contexts

- Worship services
- Serving together
- Small group (Life Groups, Conversations, ...)
- With 1-3 others
- Personally with God

Challenge

By August 15...

I want to stop...
I want to be doing...
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

“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

Reflection Questions for later today or this week...

1. What is an area where God has been growing you in Christ? What changes have you seen? Praise God for those changes! What has been bringing that change about?
2. As a church, we value key practices for growth: our worship services, serving together, small groups, discipling friendships, and a personal walk with God. These are key parts of “making every effort” to grow in Christ. Is there one of these areas where you want to start something new or make adjustments?
3. What is a way that God may be prompting you to grow now and in the coming months? What Scripture may be an important focus for this growth?
4. With whom do you have a “discipling friendship”? Or do you want to establish that? If so, what might be a first step?

Conversation starters

What helps bring about real change in your life?