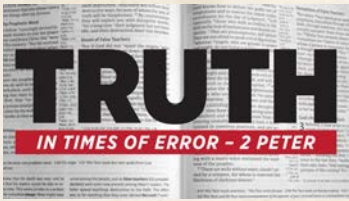


Apply The Word

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Message Info

Title:

Grow and Confirm

Speaker:

Peter Privitera

Date:

November 6, 2022

Scriptures:

2 Peter 1:1-15

Theme: Make every effort to grow because growth in Christ confirms we are in Christ.

Introduction: If you had an investment with an excellent rate of return on investment, you would make the effort necessary to go to the bank to renew it as needed. Here in 2 Peter, we are called "make every effort" in the Christian life, with a far greater promised return. We must not let a right concern for 'works righteousness' lead us to a wrong understanding of the role of works and faith. Christians do good works *because of* the gospel, not as a replacement for it. We must work at Christian growth.

Here are 3 elements of growth:

1. Grow as a partaker (1-4)

Peter is fundamentally a servant of Christ—as we all should be; but he is also an Apostle. Yet his honored role doesn't save him. We all have 'equal standing' in Christ. We are also all partakers of the divine *power*, which grants all we need for life and godliness, in Christ.

As we grow, we become more and more like Christ, as partakers of the divine *nature*.

2. Grow and bear fruit (5-11)

Our growth is to take a specific shape, which occurs as we 'supplement' (add to) our faith with other qualities.

Peter lists them: faith, virtue, knowledge, self-control, steadfastness, godliness, brotherly affection, and love.

We begin with faith, trusting Christ, and we end with love, which results in giving ourselves for others.

Peter gives 3 reasons to pursue this growth: to keep from being ineffectual or unfruitful, to not be blind and forgetful, and to be confirmed in our calling & election.

3. Grow in remembrance (12-15)

Remembering and forgetting can reflect the morality of our wills: we remember what we value.

Peter reminds the church to remember these truths. He is nearing the end of his life and he wants his legacy to be the truth of the gospel.

To that end, he makes "every effort," demonstrating his priorities in life.

Questions:

1. Is this your basic posture: to be Christ's servant, doing whatever he wills?
2. Where are you looking for answers in life? Do you see Christ and his word as providing "all things that pertain to life and godliness" (v. 3)?
3. When did you last marvel at God's love for you?