



2

**STEPPING
OUT IN FAITH**
FOUR PART SERIES

THE SECOND STEP - **GROWTH**

2 Peter 3:13-18 KJV

[13] Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. [14] Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless. [15] And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; [16] As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction. [17] Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness. [18] But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

When we stop growing in Christ, we begin to start moving further away from him.

2 Peter 2:1-3 KJV

[1] But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. [2] And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. [3] And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.

2 Peter 2:14 KJV

Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children:

2 Peter 2:18 KJV

For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error.

Why should we endeavor to grow in our Christian life.

1. The predestined will of God
2. Our protection
3. Our personal growth

We reap what we sow, more than we sow, when we live our lives in opposition to God.

Why do we fail to grow in our Christian life:

1. No instruction, or listening to false teaching.
2. Neglect scripture, prayer, or church worship.
3. Negative influence of others.
4. Unsure about what we believe.
5. Lure of a sinful world all around us.
6. We begin to doubt God, slowly drift away.
7. Continuous defeat in an area of temptation.
8. Preoccupation with the pursuits of material things rather than focused on what God wants you to do.

What is the evidence that we are growing in God's grace and knowledge

1. We are becoming increasingly aware of our sinfulness and weakness.
2. Our response to sin in our life is quick, involving genuine repentance.
3. Our spiritual battles are becoming more intense and yet we are still rejoicing.
4. We begin to see trials and temptations as opportunities for growth.
5. We begin to view service to him as high honor and not as a burden.
6. We're able to view everything that comes our way as being from him.
7. We sense our faith is growing stronger.
8. We spend more time in praise and worship.
9. Our desire to obey him is becoming more intense, and sin is less and less attractive.
10. We are eager to share with others what Christ is doing in our life.
11. We are experiencing an ever increasing awareness of his presence.
12. We jealously guard our private devotional life of prayer and bible reading.
13. We have a greater delight in giving to the Lord's work.
14. We have a growing hunger to know and understand the truth of God's word.
15. We have an ever increasing awareness of God's love for us.

If you are not growing spiritually in God's grace and knowledge, it's usually because you're not letting go of something God wants you to let go of.