

**20231231 GROW IN THE GRACE AND KNOWLEDGE
OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST
(2 Peter 3:8-18)**

⁸ But you must not forget this one thing, dear friends: A day is like a thousand years to the Lord, and a thousand years is like a day.

⁹ The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent.

¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come as unexpectedly as a thief. Then the heavens will pass away with a terrible noise, and the very elements themselves will disappear in fire, and the earth and everything on it will be found to deserve judgment.

¹¹ Since everything around us is going to be destroyed like this, what holy and godly lives you should live,

¹² looking forward to the day of God and hurrying it along. On that day, he will set the heavens on fire, and the elements will melt away in the flames.

¹³ But we are looking forward to the new heavens and new earth he has promised, a world filled with God's righteousness.

¹⁴ And so, dear friends, while you are waiting for these things to happen, make every effort to be found living peaceful lives that are pure and blameless in his sight.

¹⁵ And remember, our Lord's patience gives people time to be saved. This is what our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you with the wisdom God gave him—

¹⁶ speaking of these things in all of his letters. Some of his comments are hard to understand, and those who are ignorant and unstable have twisted his letters to mean something quite different, just as they do with other parts of Scripture. And this will result in their destruction.

¹⁷ You already know these things, dear friends. So be on guard; then you will not be carried away by the errors of these wicked people and lose your own secure footing.

¹⁸ Rather, you must grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. All glory to him, both now and forever! Amen.

1. TWO THINGS WE NOTICE THROUGH PETER'S JOURNEY OF FAITH IN CHRIST

(1) When we walk with Christ, there can be ups and downs in our heart attitude.

(2) As we walk with Christ, even a mature person can make a big mistake.

2. TWO AREAS WE NEED TO GROW IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF JESUS CHRIST

(1) When it comes to knowing Christ, the first area we need to grow in the knowledge of Jesus Christ is the truth that Jesus is God.

John 1:1-3

¹ In the beginning the Word already existed.

**The Word was with God,
and the Word was God.**

² **He existed in the beginning with God.**

³ God created everything through him,
and nothing was created except through him.

(2) The second area we need to grow in the knowledge of Jesus Christ is the truth that Jesus is a man.

John 1:14a

¹⁴ So **the Word became human** and made his home among us.

Philippians 2:6-7

⁶ Though He (Jesus) was God,
He did not think of equality with God
as something to cling to.

⁷ Instead, He gave up His divine privileges;
He took the humble position of a slave

and was born as a human being.

3. FIVE AREAS WE CAN GROW IN THE GRACE OF CHRIST

(1) Jesus helps us to overcome our fears.

Hebrews 12:1-2

¹ ...Let us run with endurance the race God has set before us.

² We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith.

(2) Jesus forgives our unfaithfulness.

Psalms 27:10

¹⁰ Even if my father and mother abandon me,
the LORD will hold me close.

(3) Jesus teaches us patiently when we keep making mistakes.

Philippians 1:6

⁶ ...God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.

(4) Jesus sees God's possibility in us.

1 Corinthians 1:30

³⁰ God has united you with Christ Jesus. For our benefit God made him (Jesus) to be wisdom itself. Christ made us right with God; he made us pure and holy, and he freed us from sin.

(5) Jesus uses people like us.

Acts 4:13

¹³ The members of the council were amazed when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, for they could see that they were ordinary men with no special training in the Scriptures. They also recognized them as men who had been with Jesus.