Grow in Grace and Knowledge, #3

2 Peter 3:14-18

Introduction:

1. Initial knowledge comes from a saved relationship with God and His Son.

“And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent” (John 17:3).

Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments (1 John 2:3).

1. Growing knowledge comes from
   1. Hungering after His word.

As newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby (1 Peter 2:2).

* 1. Speaking (and hearing) the truth in love.

That we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness by which they lie in wait to deceive, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ— (Ephesians 4:14, 15).

* 1. Becoming willing to submit to His suffering, death, and resurrection.

That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead (Philippians 3:10, 11).

* 1. Experience in observing God keeping His promises.

For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day (2 Timothy 1:12).

Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him!

How I’ve proved Him o’er and o’er!

Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!

O for grace to trust Him more!

1. Grace (the gift) must be accepted by faith. Romans 4:1-8

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast (Ephesians 2:8, 9).

1. Part of believing the good news about the gift is cooperating with the knowledge that grace teaches in accepting the gift.

But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?  Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar?  Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect?  And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, “Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.”  And he was called the friend of God.  You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only (James 2:20-24).

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.  For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them (Ephesians 2:8-10).

1. Let’s look at the life of the man who wrote 2 Peter 3:18 to see how he grew in grace and knowledge as a life-long commitment.
2. FOLLOWING WHEN JESUS INVITES WITHOUT KNOWING THE DETAILS.
   1. He had initially been introduced to Jesus by his brother, Andrew.

One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother.  He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ).  And he brought him to Jesus.  Now when Jesus looked at him, He said, “You are Simon the son of Jonah.  You shall be called Cephas” (which is translated, A Stone) (John 1:40-42).

* 1. Now he follows without knowing the details.

And as He walked by the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and Andrew his brother casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen.  Then Jesus said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men.”  They immediately left their nets and followed Him (Mark 1:16-18).

* 1. Abraham set the example.

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance.  And he went out, not knowing where he was going (Hebrews 11:8).

* 1. What did you learn from that?–Peter encouraged Christians to recognize their strangeness.

And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one’s work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your sojourning here in fear (1 Peter 1:17).

Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul (1 Peter 2:11).

1. LEARNING THAT JESUS IS UNPREDICTABLE AND STAYING WITH HIM ANYWAY.
   1. After calling Peter, Jesus began to teach and cast out unclean spirits. Mark 1:21-28
   2. Jesus healed Peter’s mother-in-law.  Mark 1:29-31
   3. He healed many others in Capernaum.  Mark 1:32-34
   4. Then, when informed that He has even more opportunities, Jesus leaves to go to the next towns.  Mark 1:35-39
   5. Growing in grace and knowledge allows God to be God, and for me not to always understand why he does or does not do certain things I think He should.

“For My thoughts are not your thoughts,

Nor are your ways My ways,” says the Lord.

For as the heavens are higher than the earth,

So are My ways higher than your ways,

And My thoughts than your thoughts” (Isaiah 55:8, 9).

Conclusion

1. When you decide to follow Jesus, you don’t know the details, but you do know the destination.

Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (2 Peter 1:10, 11).

1. Jesus taught, Peter learned, and Peter taught that following Jesus brings pardon and a promise.

Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Men and brethren, what shall we do?”  Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.  For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call” (Acts 2:37-39).