Grow in Grace and Knowledge, #8

2 Peter 3:14-18

Introduction:

1. Growing in grace is accepting the gifts God has in store for us.

For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.  For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.  Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith (Romans 12:3-6).

1. Try and fail. You never know how high you can jump until you knock the bar down.
2. Knowledge can come from observation and experience.

Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content:  I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound.  Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need (Philippians 4:11, 12).

1. What is growing in grace?
2. BEING WILLING TO REPEAT A LESSON THAT I HAVE NOT LEARNED–BEING A SLOW LEARNER.
   1. Multiplying loaves and fish
      1. Five thousand. Matthew 14:13-21
      2. Four thousand. Matthew 15:34-39
      3. Didn’t remember the lesson. Matthew 16:5-12
   2. It took two rooster crows for Peter to remember Jesus’ statement. Mark 14:17-31
      1. The first rooster crow didn’t seem to faze Peter. Mark 14:66-70
      2. It was only after three denials and two rooster crows that Peter remembered. Mark 14:71, 72
   3. God loves all people and does not show partiality.
      1. Peter preached it.

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 2:38, 39).

* + 1. He was reminded in a vision and visit to Cornelius.  Acts 10, 11
    2. Paul rebuked him when “forgot” and played the hypocrite.

Now when Peter had come to Antioch, I withstood him to his face, because he was to be blamed; for before certain men came from James, he would eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing those who were of the circumcision.  And the rest of the Jews also played the hypocrite with him, so that even Barnabas was carried away with their hypocrisy (Galatians 2:11-13).

* + 1. Peter writes this principle in his first letter.

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

* 1. Knowing from experience that repetition is an important principle of learning–growing in grace and knowledge.

For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth.  Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you, knowing that shortly I must put off my tent, just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me.  Moreover I will be careful to ensure that you always have a reminder of these things after my decease.

Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in both of which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder) (2 Peter 1:12-15; 3:1).

1. BEING OPEN TO EVALUATION, CRITICISM, AND LOVING THE PERSON WHO GAVE IT.
   1. Paul rebuked Peter in public.

Now when Peter had come to Antioch, I withstood him to his face, because he was to be blamed; for before certain men came from James, he would eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing those who were of the circumcision.  And the rest of the Jews also played the hypocrite with him, so that even Barnabas was carried away with their hypocrisy.  But when I saw that they were not straightforward about the truth of the gospel, I said to Peter before them all, “If you, being a Jew, live in the manner of Gentiles and not as the Jews, why do you compel Gentiles to live as Jews?  (Galatians 2:11-14).

* 1. But Peter didn’t hold a grudge; he referred to Paul as a “dear brother.”

And consider that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation—as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures (2 Peter 3:15, 16).

* 1. Evidently Peter believed what Solomon wrote.

Open rebuke is better

Than love carefully concealed.

Faithful are the wounds of a friend,

But the kisses of an enemy are deceitful (Proverbs 27:5, 6).

Whoever loves instruction loves knowledge,

But he who hates correction *is* stupid (Proverbs 12:1).

A fool is quick-tempered, but a wise person stays calm when insulted (Proverbs 12:16, NLT).

Conclusion:

1. You and I can grow in grace and knowledge.
2. God has gifts.
3. We can learn his will for our lives.

`“If anyone wants to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or whether I speak on My own authority” (John 7:17).

1. Do you want to go in His way?

Search me, O God, and know my heart;

Try me, and know my anxieties;

And see if there is any wicked way in me,

And lead me in the way everlasting (Psalm 139:23, 24).

1. Peter preached the truth on Pentecost.

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 (Acts 2:38).