

# Growth Is Evidence of LIFE

The necessity of developing character in the life of a believer 2 Peter 1:5-7 Chris Mueller 11-10-2019

**Introduction:**

## 1 Your new P : A new DISPOSITION to show

5 *Now for this very reason also*

2 Corinthians 5:17 *If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.*

Ezekiel 36:26 *I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.*

Matthew 12:33 *The tree is known by its fruit.*

Romans 6:4 *We have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.*

Galatians 5:19-24 *Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.*

## 2 Your needed P : A new DILIGENCE to pursue

5 NASB *Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence*

ESV *make every effort to supplement your faith* NKJ *giving all diligence, add to your faith*

Philippians 2:12-13 *So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.*

## 3 Your necessary P : A new DESCRIPTION to demonstrate

5 *Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith,*

1<sup>st</sup> MORAL EXCELLENCE 5 *in your faith supply moral excellence*

2<sup>nd</sup> KNOWLEDGE 5 *and in your moral excellence, knowledge*

3<sup>rd</sup> SELF CONTROL 6 *and in your knowledge, self-control*

**Proverbs 25:28** *Like a city that is broken into and without walls is a man who has no control over his spirit.*

**1 Corinthians 9:27** *I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified.*

#### **4<sup>th</sup> PERSEVERANCE** **6** *in your self-control, perseverance*

**Hebrews 12:2** *Fixing our eyes on Jesus...who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame.*

#### **5<sup>th</sup> GODLINESS** **6** *and in your perseverance, godliness*

#### **6<sup>th</sup> BROTHERLY KINDNESS** **7** *and in your godliness, brotherly kindness*

**1 Peter 1:22** *Fervently love one another from the heart.*

**Hebrews 13:1** *Let love of the brethren continue.*

**Romans 12:10** *Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor.*

**Galatians 6:10** *So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.*

#### **7<sup>th</sup> LOVE** **7** *and in your brotherly kindness, love.*

**Matthew 5:44** *Love your enemies.*

**Romans 13:8** *Love is a debt.*

**1 John 4:16** *We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.*

### **TAKE HOME**

**A – Is your changed person, diligent pursuit, and progress in character \_\_\_\_\_ that you are a real believer or a make-believer?**

**B – Are you \_\_\_\_\_ diligent in the development of Christlike character?**

**C – Will you accept the challenge of pursuing Christlike \_\_\_\_\_?**

### **QUESTIONS FOR GROWTH IN CHRIST**

1. What difference does a NEW NATURE make in the life of a genuine Christian?
2. If God is sovereign, then why do believers need to exercise DILIGENCE in the pursuit of living like Jesus Christ?
3. What does it mean to live by FAITH in the life of a Christian, and what difference does it make in his growth in Christ?
4. WHY does Peter list the character qualities he does in verses 5-7?
5. Which quality of verses 5-7 is your WEAKEST quality, and which quality is a strength of yours?
6. What STEPS will you take this week in order to grow in one or more of these character qualities?
7. How are the qualities in verses 5-7 EVIDENCE of your salvation?

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