

**PETER'S FINAL WORDS TO  
GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH**

**(Part 2)**

April 19th, 2026

**TEXT:** II Peter 1:1-2; 3:18

**CONSIDER THIS:** Christian, the greatest way you can bless your family, your church and the people who know you is for those relationships to be lavished with Christ's sanctifying (transforming) grace that is in your life. **GROW!!**

**Q:** How do we live in such a way that Christ is glorified?

**A:** Grow in the grace and knowledge our Lord Jesus Christ.

## **I. GROW IN KNOWLEDGE**

A) Peter uses the word knowledge or know eleven times in this short letter. Yes this means acquiring **information** (knowledge) **about** Jesus based on what we read in the Bible. Accurate information is **essential**. But the word epignosis means knowledge that comes through personal experience of being in a relationship. Christian, your knowledge of Christ should be a living, growing thing.

B) A serious illustration of true knowledge is seen in Jesus's words in Matthew 7:21-23.  
*"And then I will declare to them, 'I never **knew** you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'"* (Also see Luke 6:46-49)

C) To grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will cause you to:

1. be a blessing to the people around you. People will receive from you the same treatment they would receive from Jesus because you have taken on the character of Christ.
2. resist the deceptions and doubts of the world (II Peter 3:17)
3. bear eternal fruit (works that God rewards and uses)
4. long for the appearing of Jesus Christ (II Peter 3:11-14; II Timothy 4:6-8; I John 3:1-3)
5. glorify God with every part of your life (II Peter 3:18)

*To Him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.*

## **II. HOW DO I GROW?**

A) In the Christian life there is no substitute for the **word of God**

1. Study it
2. Meditate upon it (think carefully over a period of time)
3. Apply it to my life

I read Ephesians 4:29-32. As I study the content/information in these verses I begin to meditate (think carefully over a period of time). I focus on how God forgave me in Christ (v.32). Then I think of a person I need to forgive. Have I done this yet? Do they know I want to forgive them? Then I apply it by actually forgiving them in my heart like God forgave me in Psalm 103:10-14. This process is a huge part of growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

- B) In the Christian life there is no substitute for **prayer**. There is nothing wrong with asking God to do things, provide things or change things. But perhaps the most essential prayer is, “Lord, here I am. Change me!” (Psalm 139:23-24; Romans 12:1-2).
- C) In the Christian life there is no substitute for submissive **obedience**... “Father, not my will, but yours be done.” (Luke 22:42)
- D) In the Christian life there is no substitute for **community**. To grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus cannot be done in isolation. It implies meaningful interaction with other believers.

### III. TO HIM BE THE GLORY

- A) The call upon our lives to glorify Christ is a wonderful gift from God:
  1. It delivers us from worshipping ourselves or other created things
  2. It elevates us above mere earthly, temporary things
  3. It joins us eternally to He who is eternal
  4. When our desire is to glorify Christ, it sets us free from depending on our circumstances to have joy, peace, contentment. See Philippians 3:8 and 4:11-13

The Lord doesn't need anything from us. He is perfect and complete unto Himself. He calls us to glorify Him because He loves us and wants what is best for us.

B) **Q:** What must I do to glorify Him?

**A:** Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

A prayer for GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH:

“Father, work in such a way that all who are a part of Grace Community Church, from the oldest to the youngest, may grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory. Amen!”