

Today's Message: 2 PETER: GROWING IN THE LORD  
Series: Messianic Letters  
Pastor Gary L. Stump

Don't we all want to grow in our faith? How can we grow more quickly?

In 2 Peter we learn how to grow in our faith...

**Written by:** Peter

**Written to:** Messianic believers

**Date Written:** 68 AD (right before his death)

**Written from:** Rome

**Theme:** Growing in Faith

### **A Few Highlights of Second Peter...**

#### **Peter's legacy**

*2 Peter 1:14–15 (NLT) For our Lord Jesus Christ has shown me that I must soon leave this earthly life,<sup>15</sup> so I will work hard to make sure you always remember these things after I am gone.*

#### **Plenary Verbal Inspiration of Scripture**

*2 Peter 1:20–21 (NLT) Above all, you must realize that no prophecy in Scripture ever came from the prophet's own understanding,<sup>21</sup> or from human initiative. No, those prophets were moved by the Holy Spirit, and they spoke from God.*

#### **Beware of False Teachers**

*2 Peter 2:1a (NLT) But there were also false prophets in Israel, just as there will be false teachers among you.*

#### **God's purposes for "delay"**

*2 Peter 3:9 (NLT) 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.*

#### **Haste the Day!**

*2 Peter 3:11–12 (NLT) Since everything around us is going to be destroyed like this, what holy and godly lives you should live,<sup>12</sup> 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.*

Hurrying it along = (σπεύδω) eagerness; eager to do something; counting down the days; readiness

### **How to Grow in the Lord...**

#### **God has provided everything we need**

*2 Peter 1:3–4 (NLT) By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know him, the one who called us to himself by means of his marvelous glory and*

excellence. <sup>4</sup> And because of his glory and excellence, he has given us great and precious promises. These are the promises that enable you to share his divine nature and escape the world's corruption caused by human desires.

### Essentials for Growing in Faith

2 Peter 1:5–8 (NLT) In view of all this, make every effort to respond to God's promises. Supplement your faith with a generous provision of moral excellence, and moral excellence with knowledge, <sup>6</sup> and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with patient endurance, and patient endurance with godliness, <sup>7</sup> and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love for everyone. <sup>8</sup> The more you grow like this, the more productive and useful you will be in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- **Growing in Faith** = (πίστις) that which is worthy of belief; a gift from God not produced by people; a guarantee; trust; firm conviction

Hebrews 11:1 (ESV) Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

- **Growing in Moral Excellence** = (ἀρετή) virtue, strength, valor, courage, excellence; conformity of life and conduct with the principles of morality

Proverbs 10:9 (NLT) People with integrity walk safely, but those who follow crooked paths will be exposed.

- **Growing in Knowledge** = (γνώσις) to know God; know what you believe about God; Christian enlightenment

Philippians 3:8a (NLT) Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.

- **Growing in Self-Control** = (ἐγκράτεια) inner strength; control over one's desires and actions; continence, temperance

Galatians 5:22–23 (NLT) But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives... self-control.

- **Growing in Perseverance** = (ὑπομονή) endurance; capacity to continue to bear up under difficult circumstances

Luke 8:15 (NIV84) *"But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop."*

- **Growing in Godliness** = (εὐσέβεια) religious devotion to be like the Lord; reverential feelings

2 Corinthians 3:18b (NLT) And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image.

- **Growing in Brotherly Affection** = (φιλαδελφία) love for believers; Christian brotherhood

Romans 12:10 (NLT) Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other.

- **Growing in Love** = (ἀγάπη) love for nonbelievers; unconditional love for God and others

Matthew 5:44 (NLT) *"But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you!"*

**SO WHAT?** What is keeping you from growing in your faith?

- Do you fully trust the Lord?
- Is it your desire to live righteously?
- Do you study the Bible to know the Lord?
- Does the Holy Spirit have control of your life most of the time?
- Are you consistently following Jesus no matter what?
- In what ways are you more like Jesus now compared with last year?
- Are you doing life with brothers and sisters in Christ who you love?
- How well are you loving your enemies?

*2 Peter 3:18 (NLT) 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.*

Download or listen to Sermon Audio at: <https://onwardchurch.org/resources/sermon-audio/>



PO BOX 681 • FISHERS, IN 46038 • [www.onwardchurch.org](http://www.onwardchurch.org)  
PASTOR GARY L. STUMP • [gary@garystump.org](mailto:gary@garystump.org) • 317.513.0227

## ONWARD CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SUNDAY, July 3, 2022

**1. ONWARD PRAYER RESPONSE CARD ONLINE**—To make it easier for some, you can scan this QR code in order to complete your Prayer Response Card.



**2. WORKDAY AT NEW BUILDING SATURDAY AT 9AM**—13095 Publishers Drive, Fishers (SE corner 131<sup>st</sup> & SR 37). Text Alex Abell with questions or more info 317-416-8027.

**3. ONWARD'S NEW LOCATION ANNOUNCED**—We are thrilled to announce that Onward Church will be moving to our new facility at 13095 Publishers Drive, Fishers (131<sup>st</sup> & SR 37). Our planned move will be August 14, 2022. We will be renting our facility from *Mission Christian Academy* led by Shawn Moore.

**4. NO YOUTH SUNDAY**

**5. FAMILY CAMP—SEPTEMBER 9-11.** Blue Gate Inn, Shipshewana. Save the dates. More info to come.

**6. 2022 ONWARD TO JERUSALEM BIBLE STUDY TOUR—OCTOBER 18-29, 2022.** Cost of the tour will be approximately \$3,850 per person (double occupancy). A deposit of \$500 will hold your spot. For more information, please write Pastor Gary at [gary@garystump.org](mailto:gary@garystump.org). Vaccine Mandates have been lifted for travelers to Israel.