

How to Receive Loving Power

International Bible Lesson

2 Peter 3:18

Sunday, May 26, 2013

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“But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen” (2 Peter 3:18—KJV).

“But continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory, now and forever! Amen” (2 Peter 3:18—GNB).

“But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen” (2 Peter 3:18—NRSV).

God wants those who believe in Jesus Christ to keep growing spiritually. Believers should not assume that salvation means nothing more than the forgiveness of sins through faith in Jesus as their Savior. The believer's love for Jesus and their faith in Jesus should motivate them to seek the spiritual development that will also help them follow Jesus as their Lord. They need both the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ to keep on growing. Grace means “unmerited favor,” because we do not deserve any of the good gifts God gives us. God demonstrated the meaning and power of His grace and gifts through the ministry of Jesus Christ. As believers pray and trust in Jesus Christ daily to help them live in ways that honor Him, Jesus fills them with His loving power. God's grace includes God giving His loving power to believers so they can bestow God's undeserved favor on others.

Salvation involves forgiveness and includes sanctification. Sanctification describes the spiritual growth that flows from faith in Jesus. When believers love and serve God and others as God intends, they do what will help them grow in their spiritual knowledge of Jesus Christ. Christians grow in their knowledge of Jesus Christ because Jesus Christ is their “wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption” (1 Corinthians 1:30). Paul wrote that “God chose you as the first fruits for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit through belief in the truth;” therefore, the Spirit of God helps believers learn and live according to the truth of God (2 Thessalonians 2:13).— © Copyright 2013 L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

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Thinking Further

1. What are some activities that churches can do today to encourage and help believers remember Bible truths?

2. What are some sources of divine truth?

3. In what way does Peter say some will scoff at Christian truths?

4. How would you compare or contrast Genesis 1, John 1, and 2 Peter 3:5?

5. What will God do with the godless someday?

Read the verse by verse commentary on this lesson at the BibleLessonForum.com. See the recommended study and worship resources at SmallChurchResources.com.