



# GROWING IN GRACE & KNOWLEDGE

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## INTRODUCTION

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There are two elements that are critical to our service of God — **grace** and **knowledge**.

First of all, to serve God we need his **grace**, that unwavering, undeserved love he has for us. In his **grace**, the Father sent his one and only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. In his **grace**, Jesus willingly laid down his life on the cross. In his **grace**, the Holy Spirit gave you faith that Christ's sacrifice saved you. The **grace** that God has shown us moves us to love God and motivates us to serve God.

Secondly, to serve God we need **knowledge**. We need to grow in our **knowledge** of our Savior so that our desire to thank him with our lives might grow as well. And we need to grow in our **knowledge** of God's Word. For in God's Word we find out what pleases God. We see his plan for our life.

**Grace** and **knowledge** — to have one without the other makes it difficult to serve God. If someone understands that in his **grace** God sent his Son to save mankind, but that someone lacks a fuller **knowledge** of God's Word, he or she will quickly grow frustrated. That person loves God and wants to serve him but isn't sure how. Likewise, if someone possesses **knowledge** of how God wants him or her to live but doesn't have any love for God, that **knowledge** will not be put to good use.

For this reason the Bible urges us to “**Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ**” (2 Peter 3:18). Now, a plant cannot make itself **grow**. A tree does not need to do anything to **grow** big and strong. Rather, if a plant is in good soil and gets plenty of sunshine it will **grow** naturally. If a tree is nearby a good source of water it is going to **grow**. It's similar in our Christian lives. God does not make the growth of our faith and our faith-life our own responsibility. That growth is the work of the Holy Spirit. Our job is to make sure we're in good soil.

Over the course of this Bible study series you are going to put yourself in some good soil, the fertile soil of God's Word. You are going to get plenty of son-shine, for you are going to bask in the glory of God's Son. As you do that the Holy Spirit will see that you **grow** — naturally. You will **grow** in **grace**, for your love and appreciation for our God will increase. And you will **grow** in **knowledge**, for your understanding of God's will for your life will increase as well.

May the Lord richly bless your study, and bless your growth!



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## INSTRUCTIONS

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The goal of this Bible study is two-fold. First of all, “Growing in Grace and Knowledge” will hopefully help you to grow in your understanding of Christian living by looking at a variety of topics pertaining to Christian life. The first topic is CHRISTIAN LIVING itself. The subsequent topics are: PRAYER, WORSHIP, CHURCH, STEWARDSHIP, FAMILY, THE WORLD, and EVANGELISM.

The second goal of “Growing in Grace and Knowledge” is to make you more comfortable with personal Bible study. Each topic contains five lessons, for a total of forty. Each lesson consists of a portion of Scripture that you will look up. You will be answering questions, underlining Bible verses, and even making notes in your Bible. Hopefully, over the course of the forty lessons you will become more comfortable with the process of studying Scripture.

Here are some suggestions for completing this course of study:

- Place all the lessons together in a 3-ring binder. When it comes time to discuss the lessons in group Bible class you can use the back of sheets to take notes.
- Set aside 15-20 minutes on Monday through Friday to do one lesson. It might be first thing in the morning or last thing before you go to sleep. Or perhaps you could use the lessons for family devotions after dinner. Do all you can to spread the lessons out over one week (rather than trying to do all five in one day).
- Begin each lesson with prayer, asking God to bless your study and make it fruitful.
- If you don't understand a portion of the lesson, don't worry about it. Write down any questions you might have about that day's lesson and then move on. Those questions will provide valuable discussion material during the group Bible class.
- Think about what you have learned. Meditate on it. As you go through your day think about ways that the last lesson you studied is applicable to the various situations you are facing.
- Have fun! The psalmist says, “I delight in your decrees” (Psalm 119:16). Do you remember how excited you were as a child when a relative told you, “My, how you've grown!” Well, don't think of this Bible study so much as work. Think about it as *growth!*