

DISCUSSION GUIDE

HOW TO GROW IN GRACE
Make Every Effort — Week 23

ICEBREAKER: What are the best ways to inspire or motivate people?

OVERVIEW: This week we are continuing our study of 2 Peter 3:18. Last week we learned what it means to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This week we will learn *how* to grow, and how to recognize the signs of spiritual growth.

1. Read 2 Peter 3:18. What insight, principle, or observation from this week-end's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain. (Or what was your key takeaway from Sunday's message?)
2. Have you ever felt spiritually stuck – you don't see any growth in yourself, and you haven't for a long time, and you don't know how to fix it? Explain.
3. The sermon talked about two competing views of spiritual growth: The Catholic view, and the Protestant view. Explain the difference between these two views.
4. The sermon talked about the "means of grace". What is meant by the "means of grace", and how do they relate to spiritual growth?
5. What are some of the private means of grace? What are some of the public means of grace?
6. How is self-discipline related to the pursuit of spiritual growth?

7. What are some of the negative conditions that must be avoided in the pursuit of spiritual growth?
8. The sermon discussed some of the signs of spiritual growth. What are some of the false signs of spiritual growth?
9. What are some of the true signs of spiritual growth?
10. How would you most like to grow spiritually over the next year?

The Last Word: "Hardly anything can serve more effectually to invigorate our pious affections, or to heighten the interest with which we regard the objects of faith, than a close and fraternal fellowship with Christian friends." William B. Sprague (1830)