



## BEGIN WITH GRACE

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Pastor Paul Chappell • Sunday Morning • January 29, 2017

### TITLE: GROW BY GRACE

*“Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own stedfastness. 18 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 3:17-18)*

### INTRODUCTION

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**Quote:** “Grace is the unlimited resource of God. It is the powerful inner working of the Holy Spirit to provide strength and to develop us into His image.”

## 1. A \_\_\_\_\_—BEWARE

A. Of \_\_\_\_\_

### THE POSSIBILITY OF FAILING

*“This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance: 2 That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour:” (2 Peter 3:1-2)*

*“I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: 7 Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.” (Galatians 1:6-7)*

### THE PATH TO FAILURE

*“But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and*

*bring upon themselves swift destruction. 2 And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.” (2 Peter 2:1–2)*

**Quote:** “They, [the wicked], promise their converts freedom (2 Peter 2:19), but that freedom turns out to be lawlessness.”

*“While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage.” (2 Peter 2:19)*

**Quote:** “Grace does not grant permission to live in the flesh; it supplies power to live in the Spirit.”

## B. Of \_\_\_\_\_

**Definition:** “*steadfastness*”—firm condition, stability

### HOW TO AVOID FALLING

#### ○ GET ROOTED

*“Rooted and built up in him, and established in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving. 8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.” (Colossians 2:7–8)*

#### ○ KEEP A CLEAR CONSCIENCE

*“Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck:” (1 Timothy 1:19)*

**Quote:** “Keep short accounts with God.”

**Quote:** “True Christians cannot fall from salvation and be lost, but they can fall from their own steadfastness.”

#### ○ CONTINUE IN WHAT YOU HAVE BEEN TAUGHT

*“But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived. 14 But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them;” (2 Timothy 3:13–14)*

## 2. A \_\_\_\_\_—GROW

**Quote:** “Be constantly growing. We should not grow in spurts but in a constant experience of development.”

*“Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, 2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: 3 If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious.” (1 Peter 2:1-3)*

**Quote:** “Before we can learn the sufficiency of God’s grace, we must learn the insufficiency of ourselves.”

A. Grow in \_\_\_\_\_

**Quote:** “To grow in grace means to become more like the Lord Jesus Christ, from whom we receive all the grace that we need.”

—Warren Wiersbe

GRACE NURTURES TRUST IN GOD

*“And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. 8 For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. 9 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.” (2 Corinthians 12:7-9)*

**Quote:** “Kites fly highest against the wind, not with the wind.”

—Winston Churchill

GRACE PRODUCES PRAISE FOR GOD

*“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.” (Colossians 3:16)*

**Quote:** “God gave you about 23,000 breaths today. Have you used even one of them to praise Him?”

GRACE PRODUCES A HEART TO GIVE TO GOD

*“Moreover, brethren, we do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia; 2 How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality.” (2 Corinthians 8:1-2)*

B. Grow in \_\_\_\_\_

*“That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;” (Colossians 1:10)*

*“Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me. 40 And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.” (John 5:39-40)*

*“Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.” (John 17:17)*

### 3. A \_\_\_\_\_ –JESUS

**Quote:** “The supreme test of service is this: ‘For whom am I doing this?’”—**A.T. Pierson**

#### A. Concentrate on His \_\_\_\_\_—Jesus

*“The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?” (Psalm 27:1)*

#### B. Concentrate on His \_\_\_\_\_—Glory

*“Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God” (1 Corinthians 10:31).*

*“For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.” (1 Corinthians 6:20)*

#### THREE WAYS TO GLORIFY GOD

##### ○ GOOD WORKS

*“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.” (Matthew 5:16)*

##### ○ BEARING FRUIT

*“Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.” (John 15:8)*

##### ○ GENEROUS GIVING

*“For the administration of this service not only supplieth the want of the saints, but is abundant also by many thanksgivings unto God; 13 Whiles by the experiment of this ministration they glorify God for your professed subjection unto the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal distribution unto them, and unto all men;” (2 Corinthians 9:12–13)*

## CONCLUSION

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