



**INTRODUCTION:** In the tenth chapter of I Corinthians, Paul referred to the members of the Corinthian church as babes in Christ. Now in that passage, Paul was not referring to new believers, but rather, he was referring to believers who had been saved for some time but chose to live a carnal life rather than a spiritual life.

*I Corinthians 3:1-3, "1 And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. 2 I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able. 3 For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?"*

In our text, Peter is dealing with our growth in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Peter calls on believers to be partakers of the Divine nature. Spiritual growth isn't automatic. It requires submission to God and diligence in obeying the instructions that He's given to us in the scriptures. The truths of II Peter 1 are the answers to the problem in I Corinthians 10.

*Philippians 2:12-13, "12 Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. 13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure."*

*"Good works do not take us to Heaven, but they follow us there." – Adrian Rogers*

In the first chapter of II Peter we find a sevenfold progression in our growth in grace. These seven attributes are interrelated. We add one as we exercise another.

A person who does not work on these qualities in his life is blind in 2 areas (1:9):

- 1) **HE IS BLINDED TO HIS CONDITION** – He cannot see afar off.
- 2) **HE IS BLINDED TO HIS CONVERSION** – He has forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.

Paul underscores 2 truths regarding Israel in I Corinthians chapter 10:

- 1) **THE GREAT PRIVILEGES OF GOD'S PEOPLE (I CORINTHIANS 10:1-4)**
- 2) **THE GREAT TRAGEDY OF GOD'S PEOPLE (I CORINTHIANS 10:5-10)**

Here were the most privileged people on the face of the earth and yet they were overthrown. They never grew up. They never learned how to walk by faith. They

never reached Canaan, a picture of the victorious Christian life. Instead, they murmured, complained, criticized and found fault.

This is the point that Peter was making. They were blind. They could not see afar off. They had forgotten that they had been purged from their old sins and saved from their old way of life. So, in order to avoid becoming like them, how do we grow in grace? Peter begins by giving us three great foundations on which to build.

## I. THE PRECIOUSNESS OF OUR FAITH (II PETER 1:1-2)

*"Faith is the median of exchange in Heaven." – David Cross*

### A. THE BLESSING OF RIGHTEOUSNESS (II PETER 1:1)

*Romans 4:3, "For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness."*

*Romans 4:20-22, "20 He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; 21 And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform. 22 And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness."*

### B. THE BLESSING OF GRACE (II PETER 1:2)

All the infinite resources of God's throne are at our disposal, and that enables us to meet every demand that is made on us because God's grace is sufficient.

*John 1:16, "And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace."*

### C. THE BLESSING OF PEACE (II PETER 1:2)

*Philippians 4:7, "And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."*

## II. THE POWER OF OUR GOD (II PETER 1:3)

*"One aspect of our growing in grace is to learn one glorious truth after another glorious truth of what happened to us when we were saved." – David Cross*

God never intended us to live for Him in our own meager strength.

*II Corinthians 5:21, "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."*

The indwelling Spirit of God works in us, making this a daily reality in our lives.

*Romans 8:14, "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God."*

*Galatians 5:16, "This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh."*

## III. THE PROMISES OF OUR BIBLE (II PETER 1:4)

That word "exceeding" emphasizes the incredible intensity of God's promises in our lives. The good news is that the old nature was already put to death at Calvary the moment we received Christ.

*Romans 6:11, "Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord."*