

Series: ⑦ *Core Values that drive Hope Community Church*

Core Value No. 5 - ***Growing: Spiritual growth requires intentional effort***

Text: 2 Peter 1:1-11 (Memory verses: Psalm 119:59-60)

Discussion Questions

- Think back to your earliest days/years as a Christian. Would you say you were highly motivated to live a godly life and grow spiritually? In what ways did your efforts reflect your motivation or lack thereof?
- Some view spiritual growth the same way they do home improvements. Why is this a valid comparison?

Application Questions

1. Looking back at our public/private school years, many of us were expected to learn about things/ subjects that have never been useful in real life. Why is that not a valid reason to remain ignorant about what's in the Bible? (1 Corinthians 10:11-12, Matthew 28:18-20)

2. Ephesians 2:8-9 and 2 Peter 1:1 inform us that Faith to believe is not something we pursued. Instead, we are to see it as a gift from God. Describe the time in your life when God opened your eyes, spiritually speaking, and gave you Faith to see and confidently place your faith/trust in Jesus Christ as Savior?

3. Although faith to believe is a gift, we are told to diligently pursue adding 7 things to it. (2 Peter 1:5-8) Prayerfully read over each one below. Which one do you need to pursue most? What actions steps can you take? I would encourage you, as well, to write out and pray a prayer to God that describes your desire to add it to your faith.
 - **Virtue** = Exhibiting excellence moral character
 - **Knowledge** = Learning what God's Word says
 - **Self-control** = Overcoming impulsive behaviors
 - **Perseverance** = Continuing to live for God when trials come
 - **Godliness** = Walking in step with God's will and through His strength
 - **Brotherly kindness** = Bettering the lives of fellow believers
 - **Love** = Selflessly giving for the good of others

4. What frightening "feeling" or fear can we avoid by simply continuing to live for God? (2 Peter 1:8-9)

5. In the sermon, Pastor Woody shared how people who lose their ability to hear, quickly lose their ability to speak, as well. Spiritually speaking, we lose our ability/desire to live for God when we stop listening/hearing from Him (aka regularly, consistently, and methodically reading the Bible).

Can you recall a time when you stopped listening and your spiritual life took a hit? If yes, share.

On the flip side, what blessings have you received from being in the Word daily?

6. Look at the heartfelt words about the importance of growing that Paul wrote to the believers at Philippi in Philippians 1:9-11. Now imagine you are tasked with speaking to a believer who is questioning the importance of knowing the Word and living a godly life. What would you say to encourage him/her to dive in deep?

Prayer - Tell God you are ready to invest more time in His word and ask Him to bless your efforts as you do.