

**13067-A August 11, 2013**  
**Making Sure of Growth, part 1**  
**2 Peter 1:3-4**  
**#2**

**I. Jesus said that the word of God (gospel) is a seed that grows. Lk.8:4-15**

- A. Hard, Shallow, Weedy, and Deep soils.
- B. Only the 4<sup>th</sup> soil bore fruit and that's obviously what he's after.

**II. Peter reminds his friends that their growth in Christ is the most important thing happening in their life. 2 Peter 1:3-11.**

- A. He has given us everything, so we must cultivate it.
- B. His divine power supplies. 1:3-4

**III. Four things to do before you start doing things: 1:3-4**

**A. Realize His Knowledge.** Through the knowledge of him who called you...

1. This knowledge is a personal grasp of who God is in Christ. Faith.
  - a) In Christ, faith and knowledge are one and the same.
    - (1) This is not a category mistake! *Faith is knowledge of God in Christ and knowledge of God in Christ is faith.*
    - (2) When your doctor really knows what they're talking about, and you trust what they say—you have real knowledge that is based on faith.
    - (3) *So when you trust God, who always knows what he's talking about, you have knowledge of reality as it truly is.*
2. This knowledge is a personal call from God.
  - a) His majesty calls us. Once you know who he is, there's no other reality.
    - (1) Glory: doxa = splendor, majesty, awesomeness
    - (2) Excellence (goodness NIV) arête = moral and spiritual goodness, purity.
    - (3) Called: kaleo, summoned, 10 (calling, election: ekloge = selected, chosen from among others)
3. You were called the moment you really understood who Christ is.
  - a) *Verse 10, calling and election (choosing).*

**B. Rest in His Promises. ... His precious and magnificent promises**

1. Promises that are Incredibly valuable.
  - a) Precious: timia = extremely valuable in reality
  - b) Very Great: megista = very great, transcendent, amazing
  - c) Promises: epaggelema = rare word, synonym for epaggelia.
2. Promise is a crucial aspect of knowing God in this age.(used over 50 times in NT)
  - a) Promise of forgiveness and righteousness. Rom.4:16, 20; 9:8; Gal.3:22, 29; 4:28
  - b) Promise of the Holy Spirit. Acts 2:39; Gal.3:14
  - c) Promise of the resurrection. Jn.14:1-6; 11:25-26
  - d) *Promise of the new universe. 1 P.3:13*
3. A promise brings the joy of the future into the present.
  - a) Kids trust their parents' promises and begin enjoying the thing promised before they have it. In this sense they have it before they have it. This is what the gospel does for us.
  - b) Do you trust the Lord's promises in this tangible way?

**C. Rely on His Nature. ...partakers of the divine nature.**

1. We have His DNA now. 1 P.1:23; 2 Cor.5:17
2. God's Seed in the Gospel produces His life, which grows and reveals the sort of life that is in the seed—the life and character of Christ.
  - a) All life in the creation comes from seed and the seed produces the life it was intended to.
  - b) Acorns don't produce poison oaks—they produce real oaks.
3. *Pinocchio became a real boy. Religion makes puppets; Christ begets sons and daughters.*

**D. Rejoice in His Rescue (your escape) Having escaped the corruption...**

1. An escape that is actually a rescue by Christ.
  - a) Already escaped, yet not in full possession of the future glory.
  - b) Corruption: phthora = rot, decay, moral filth.
2. From a corruption brought on by evil desire. Epithumia: three ideas.
  - a) Like being pulled out of a cesspool.

**IV. Radical and Repentant faith in Christ brings us into the divine power that supplies everything else.**