

## 2 Peter 1:5-8

1. Our passage begins by looking back before looking forward. Bearing that in mind, in terms of Christian growth what do we have (v1-4)? What must we do? (v5ff). What are the encouragements and challenges in that?
2. In groups, consider the different qualities that Peter highlights. Rather than a progression, it is probably better to think of them as focusing on different aspects of Christian character.

### A) Growing in Christlikeness v5

Think about goodness and knowledge (knowledge here is different from the word used in v2-3 and means knowledge or understanding –see examples of it in Philippians 1:9 or Ephesians 5:17).

What will help us as we seek to grow in these (see 1v3)?

What are their opposites (see 2:19-20 and 2:12)?

What would making every effort to grow in these areas look like? How do you think growing in the grace and knowledge of Jesus will help us?

### B) Growing through good and bad times v6

Self control, perseverance and godliness (godliness is a general term meaning practical awareness of God in every aspect of life)

In what sorts of differing circumstances do we need self-control and perseverance?

What will encourage us? (see 2:9)

What are the opposites Peter highlights (see 2:6 and 3v3-4)?

What will making every effort to grow in these areas look like? How will growing in the grace and knowledge of Jesus help us in this?

### C) Growing as we live in our relationships v7

The word translated mutual affection in NIV is philadelphia – brotherly love. If this refers to love for other believers, then presumably the second word, love, refers to everyone – including those outside the family of believers.

How does Peter highlight the opposite of these in 2v3, 2v13, 2v18?

If we made every effort to grow in love for each other and for outsiders, what do you think would change? Where would the challenges be? How might growing in the grace and knowledge of Jesus help us in this?

3. Now look at v8. Why does growth matter?

### For personal reflection

In which areas do I need to take practical steps to grow? How can I do that?