

Growing in GRACE



Ed Nelson

Edited by Emilee Nelson Brouillette

Growing in Grace

*“...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 3:18*

Ed Nelson
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2024 Edition Dedication:

*To Ed and Guyla Nelson —
whose lives impacted thousands
with the Gospel of Jesus, and
whose ministry continues even
after death through books like this.
Thank you for your faithfulness.*



Dear Believer,

The most important decision any person can make is to receive Christ as his or her Lord and Savior and thus become a child of God. We rejoice that you have received Christ! But now what?

2 Peter 3:18 exhorts us: *“But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.”* You see, to accept Christ is to be *“born again”* (John 3:3). That means that by believing, you have been born again. You have now been born spiritually.

In 1 Peter 2:2 God speaks to new believers: *“As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.”* By receiving Christ, you have become a newborn babe, a spiritual babe. When we are born physically, we are born a baby and must grow physically. The same is true in our spiritual birth.

It is the grace of God that saves us. When we accept Christ, we come into a whole new realm of life, the sphere of grace. The Bible teaches that every individual is either under law or under grace. Since you have accepted Christ, you have come into the realm of grace. It is by His grace that we are saved – *“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: It is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast”* (Ephesians 2:8-9).

God’s grace is His unlimited favor manifested to us. By believing on Christ, thus relying on God’s favor to us by having Jesus die on the cross for our sins, we have been brought into the realm of grace.

We need to grow in that grace. That means we must not only grow in our understanding of God and His favor toward us; we must also grow *“... in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ”* (2 Peter 3:18).

The purpose of this book with its thirteen lessons is to help you grow in His grace and in the knowledge of Him. We are eager to help you in any way that we can. Do not be afraid to ask some questions. Since you are a new believer, most of these things will be completely new to you. You will need help in understanding. But remember, they were new to us once, and we also needed help. May the Lord give you understanding and produce spiritual growth in your life.

Yours for Growth in Him,

Pastor/Discipler

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Preface

The title and theme of this book is **Growing in Grace**. This title is taken from a command given by God in 2 Peter 3:18 –

*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.*

This book is designed to help you grow spiritually since you have been saved by trusting the Lord Jesus Christ. You grow as you feed on God's Word and learn the truths concerning Christ and the Christian life.

We have designed this book so that it can be taught in a regular class or used by believers in one-on-one discipleship. You have assignments to study to help you understand the truths of the Word of God. Each lesson also has at least one memory verse to learn each week. In the *Appendix*, you will find helpful resources to aid you in your Scripture memorization. I recommend that you memorize the verses each week and then review them by memory daily for seven weeks. You can memorize two or three verses per week. By reviewing them daily for seven weeks (49 days), you will find that they become your verses for life.

As you begin this study, we recommend that you memorize our title verse, 2 Peter 3:18.

Do answer the questions, and memorize the verses, and complete the assignments each week. These will be a great help for your growth in the Lord.

May God bless you in this study.



Ed Nelson, Author
1923–2022



Growing

UNTO him that hath, Thou givest,
Ever “more abundantly.”
Lord, I live because Thou livest,
Therefore give more life to me;
Therefore speed me in the race;
Therefore let me grow in grace.

Deepen all Thy work, O Master,
Strengthen every downward root,
Only do Thou ripen faster,
More and more, Thy pleasant fruit.
Purge me, prune me, self abase,
Only let me grow in grace.

Jesus, grace for grace outpouring,
Show me ever greater things;
Raise me higher, sunward soaring,
Mounting as on eagle-wings.
By the brightness of Thy face,
Jesus, let me grow in grace.

Let me grow by sun and shower,
Every moment water me;
Make me really hour by hour
More and more conformed to Thee,
That Thy loving eye may trace,
Day by day my growth in grace.

Let me then be always growing,
Never, never standing still;
Listening, learning, better knowing
Thee and Thy most blessed will.
Till I reach Thy holy place,
Daily let me grow in grace.

— *Frances Ridley Havergal, 1836-1879*



LESSON 1 KEY MEMORY VERSE

These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

1 John 5:13

Lesson 1

Assurance of Salvation

One of the most important things in your new life as a Christian is your assurance of salvation. There are far too many people today who lack this assurance. They simply do not know that they are saved.

IT IS POSSIBLE TO KNOW YOU ARE SAVED

*1 John 5:13 – These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; **that ye may know** that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.*

This verse clearly teaches that you can **know** you are saved.

IT IS IMPORTANT FOR YOU TO KNOW YOU ARE SAVED

Assurance of salvation is the most important thing in life.

Mark 8:36 – For what shall it profit a man if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?

Assurance of salvation is necessary to make you the successful witness God wants you to be and to live a life that glorifies God. You cannot **grow** if you do not **know**.

HOW CAN YOU KNOW YOU ARE SAVED?

By the Word of God

The only sure basis for our assurance is the Bible, God's Word. God says:

John 3:16 – For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 3:36 – He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

We know we are saved because God's Word says that when we believe on the Lord Jesus Christ we have everlasting life.

HOW CAN OTHERS KNOW YOU ARE SAVED?

By the life you live

We are saved by faith, not by works. However, we need to live a good and exemplary Christian life so that others can be attracted to Christ by our testimony.

No Other Plea

Enough for me that Jesus saves,
This ends my fear and doubt;
A sinful soul, I come to Him
He'll never cast me out.

I need no other argument
I need no other plea
It is enough that Jesus died
And that He died for me
— *Lidie H. Edmunds, 1851-1920*

Because others watch our lives to see if there is a change, we must live so that they can see Christ in us.

Titus 3:8 – This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men.

IMPORTANT THINGS TO REMEMBER

There is a plan of salvation

It is important that you understand clearly the plan of salvation. Therefore, we give it here so that you do understand.

You are a sinner.

Romans 3:23 – For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.

As a sinner, you are under condemnation.

Romans 6:23 – For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Christ paid the price for your sins and mine.

1 Peter 3:18 – For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit.

You and I are saved by believing on the Lord Jesus Christ.

John 3:16 – For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

God receives those who receive His Son

John 1:12 – But as many as received him, to them gave he power [right or privilege or authority] to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.

Becoming a Christian does not mean you are perfect

The Bible does not teach that a Christian is perfect. Rather, a Christian is a sinner saved by grace. It is not possible to be perfect in this life. Perfection will come when we are taken out of this life and into the presence of the Lord.

This is important to realize, for many new believers get discouraged when they see they are not living as perfectly as they felt they would. Remember, you are a spiritual baby, and you need to grow in grace. God will work His work in you if you are willing to let Him do it.

Philippians 1:6 – Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.

Feelings do not equal truth

You are not saved by your feelings — and you do not receive assurance of salvation by your feelings.

Not once does the Bible say we need any special feeling to be saved. Of course, there will be a feeling of peace and joy when we know our sins are forgiven, but this feeling comes as a result of our salvation. It does not produce salvation.

Feelings can change, but God's Word will remain the same. We need to rest completely on the Word of God as our only assurance. You dare not base your assurance on any feelings you might have, and you should not doubt your salvation because of a lack of feeling.

=====
Feelings can
change, but God's
Word will remain
the same.
=====

Lesson 1 – Assignment

- **Memorize 1 John 5:13 and 2 Peter 3:18.**
- **Read the Gospel of John, chapters 1–7**, by reading one chapter per day. Record the times that you find any form of the word *believe* on page 8.
- **List one truth or blessing** that you received during your reading each day. Record this on page 9.
- **List at least three promises** that were an encouragement to you from your reading of John 1–7. Record them on page 10.

ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS IN YOUR OWN WORDS

1. Why do we need to be saved? (*Romans 5:12*)

2. Why did Jesus come to earth? (*1 Timothy 1:15*)

3. For whom did Christ die? (*Romans 5:8*)

4. What must we do to be saved? (*Acts 16:30-31*)

5. What part do good works have in our salvation?
(*Ephesians 2:8-9*)

6. From 1 John 5:13, how can we know that we are saved?

7. Did Paul say that he knew he was saved? Why?
(*2 Timothy 1:12; Romans 8:16*)

8. What does God guarantee to those who have the Son?
(*1 John 5:11-12*)

9. What happened the moment we believed? (*John 5:24*)

10. Since feelings often change, upon what must we depend for assurance? Why? (*1 Peter 1:25*)

11. Whom does God receive as His children? (*John 1:12*)

12. What are the consequences of not believing in Jesus Christ?
(*John 3:36b*)

13. State briefly how you know you are a child of God and have
eternal life.

14. What important blessing does a new believer have when he/she
receives Christ? (*Ephesians 1:7*)

TRUTHS LEARNED & BLESSINGS RECEIVED

JOHN 1-7

John 1	
John 2	
John 3	
John 4	
John 5	
John 6	
John 7	

**PROMISES THAT WERE A BLESSING
(LIST AT LEAST THREE)**

JOHN 1-7

Promise 1	
Promise 2	
Promise 3	

About the Book . . .

It is the grace of God that saves us and that also sustains us after we are saved. **Growing in Grace** is designed to help the new believer become a mature Christian. Each of the 13 lessons covers important Bible principles and includes helpful notes, practical assignments, and more.

In order to live a fulfilled Christian life, we need to “*grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ*” (2 Peter 3:18). It is our prayer that this book will give you an understanding of spiritual truths and thereby produce spiritual growth in your life.

Growing in Grace is now in its seventh printing in English. It has been translated and published in Spanish, Russian, Armenian, Fijian, Polish, and Mandarin. This book has been used to disciple thousands of new believers around the world.

About the Author . . .



Dr. Ed Nelson served in full-time Christian service for nearly 75 years before the Lord took him Home. He served as a pastor, evangelist, missionary, educator, and author. During his ministry, he helped plant over 20 churches in the Rocky Mountain area. He served as a director of missions agencies and traveled extensively throughout the world preaching the Gospel, including Russia and many Eastern European countries. He also published several books, most recently his autobiography *A Sinner Saved By Grace* (2020).

Throughout his 98 years of life, God used him to impact thousands through his preaching, his writings, and his testimony. Dr. Nelson passed away in March of 2022, and he was reunited in Heaven with Guyla, his wife of almost 70 years.

Emilee Nelson Brouillette is the youngest granddaughter of Dr. Ed Nelson. After graduating with a degree in Journalism and Mass Communication from Bob Jones University, she traveled with an evangelistic team for several years before returning to Colorado. In 2020, she published her first book, *A Sinner Saved By Grace*, with her grandfather. She has a passion for writing and for using her talent to encourage others in their walk with the Lord. She currently resides in Colorado with her husband Tom.

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