

OUR PASSION FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH

1 Peter 1:1-25

INTRODUCTION: The Christian life is a living life of growth and renewal. After we are born again, the Christian life should be one of growth that never should stop regardless of how old we get physically! Psalm 92:12-15; 1 Peter 1:22-25. Our love for others should grow just as our growth in Christ is to continue to expand: John 13:34-35. Our growing love for one another is a part of our spiritual growth. The storms of life can come into our homes in our relationships, in our health or vocations. When that happens, we need something that the storms of this life cannot blow away! That something is the Word of God that lives and abides forever.

I. WE MUST ACCEPT GOD'S IMPERISHABLE WORD FOR OUR SALVATION!

Peter said, first we must receive God's Word for our salvation: 1 Peter 1:23. Peter mentions our second birth here and the first time we were born it was of perishable seed from Adam and Eve: 1 Corinthians 15:22. That is why each of us needs to be born again! We need to be born again of imperishable seed! 2 Timothy 3:16-17. We now have a new spiritual nature that will never die: John 11:25-26; Psalm 119:89; Matthew 24:35; 2 Peter 3:10-14; John 3:3. Have you accepted God's imperishable Word into your heart? John 1:12-13.

II. WE MUST AFFIRM GOD'S IMPERISHABLE WORD FOR OUR SECURITY!

In order for our spiritual growth to continue we must affirm God's imperishable Word for our security! 1 Peter 1:23-25. One part of spiritual growth is learning from God's Word that your salvation is eternally secure. Not only are you saved but you are saved for all eternity and can never lose your salvation! When we are born physically we cannot be unborn physically. The same is true with our spiritual birth: John 5:24. That verse uses three different tenses: first, the present tense verb: "hears, and believes and has are all present tense verbs. "Will not be condemned" is in the future tense. The last part of the verse: "he has crossed over from death to life" is in the past tense. The only way for our salvation to change is for the Word of God to change and that will never happen! As long as God's promise is in the Word of God we need never worry about our salvation!

III. WE MUST APPLY GOD'S IMPERISHABLE WORD FOR OUR SANTIFICATION!

Finally, we must apply God's imperishable Word for our sanctification: 1 Peter 1:25. The word "sanctification is feared by many but all it means is growth toward Christ-likeness. The living Word of God is indispensable for our Christian growth. Our Christian conception began with the Word of God: 1 Peter 1:23. Our salvation began with the Word of God: Romans 10:17. The Word of God is indispensable for our cleansing and we must believe it to be true: 1 Peter 1:22. Pilate, the Roman ruler asked Jesus a good question: John 18:37-38. How sad Pilate did not wait for Jesus answer: John 17:17. There is a cleansing for our sin in God's truth: Ephesians 5:26; Psalm 119:9.; 1 John 1:9. Step one is obeying the Word of God and confession but that is not enough we must also put our sins away: Proverbs 28:13-14. The word "sanctify" means to make holy and the word "holy" means to set apart. We have been set apart for our God. All this happens through our faith in the imperishable Word of God!