

23 February 2014: Preached by Preacher Ko Linggang

Topic: **Growing in Christ (part 1)**

Scripture Text: 2 Peter 1: 3-9

1. The Second Epistle of Peter begins and ends by exhorting believers to grow in Christ. We are told of the end point of our spiritual growth journey that we are called to glory and virtue (2 Peter 1:3). We will finally have a glorified body and hence ought to live like Christ.

2. God has given His promises to us to help and lead us on to spiritual growth even as we struggle with our infirmities and sins on this earth. The goal of the Christian is to be like Christ. The process that the Christian goes through is called sanctification. Every Christian must give all diligence in our human responsibility to grow in Christ.

3. From verses 5-7, the Word of God gives us the logical sequence of growth. Each step builds on to the next step in this spiritual growth process. The spiritual growth process is:

- a) Faith – this is the foundation whereby we are saved in Christ
- b) Virtue (moral excellence) – a believer will want to do what is right and flee from sin.
- c) Knowledge – a believer will need the Word of God to discern right and wrong.
- d) Temperance – a believer will need self-discipline to act on the Bible knowledge to do the right thing.
- e) Patience – there will be trials and persecutions to do the right thing for God and hence a believer will need to develop patience in trials.
- f) Godliness – a believer will grow to be consecrated and devoted to God which will give him the strength to endure trials. He wants to please God in everything he does.
- g) Brotherly Kindness – besides growing in the relationship with God, a believer will also grow in relationship with others by serving and showing kindness to others.
- h) Charity – Agape self-sacrificing love. The love for others will grow to be like how Christ loves us and we love one another the same way.

4. The Bible exhorts us to abound more and more in our spiritual growth and God's power will enable us to do it.