



**LIVE  
READY**

## 2 PETER 1:5-11

“PETAL BY PETAL”

APRIL 19, 2026

### OPENING

#### Ice Breaker - 5 minutes

Choose one:

- What’s something beautiful you’ve seen that required more work than you expected (garden, project, skill)?
- When you feel “stuck” spiritually, what do you usually assume is the reason?

Peter teaches that spiritual growth doesn’t happen automatically—but neither is it purely our effort. It’s a partnership where grace grows in us over time.

#### Read the Text Together: 2 Peter 1:5-11

Read 2 Peter 1:5-11 aloud together. Listen for:

- what believers are called to add or grow in
- what results from growth (or lack of it)

### SUMMARY

The sermon addresses a common question: Why don’t we experience more spiritual growth?

Peter teaches that growth is not passive. While God provides everything we need (vv. 3-4), believers are called to “make every effort” (v. 5). Spiritual growth is a partnership—what the sermon calls dependent discipline.

The key idea is this: For Christ to bloom in your life, grace must be growing in your heart.

Peter describes growth as a progression of Christlike virtues, beginning with faith and culminating in love. These qualities don’t grow automatically—they are strengthened as we respond to life’s circumstances with dependence on God.

Three signs that grace is growing:

- Your life increasingly reflects the character of Christ
- Grace produces visible fruit in your life
- You begin to see that the effort of growth is worth it

Spiritual growth is slow, intentional, and often difficult—but over time, God produces beauty in us “petal by petal.”

## DISCUSSION

### Observation Questions

- What qualities are listed in verses 5–7?  
Compare different translations.
- What happens if these qualities are increasing in us (v. 8)?
- What warning is given in verse 9?
- What promise is given in verses 10–11?



This document can be used for either personal or group reflection.

Group facilitator: Please feel empowered to use only the questions that are helpful for the context of your group.

### Interpretation & Theological Reflection

- What does it mean to “make every effort” if God has already provided everything we need?
- Why do you think Peter begins with faith and ends with love?
- How do these virtues reflect the character of Christ?
- What does it mean to be “nearsighted and blind” spiritually (v. 9)?

### Application Questions

- Where do you tend to struggle more: depending on God or making intentional effort?
- What situation in your life right now might be an opportunity for growth rather than just a problem to solve?
- Which of the listed virtues (self-control, perseverance, godliness, etc.) do you most need to grow in right now?
- What would it look like this week to respond to a challenge in a way that reflects Christ more clearly?

### Closing Prayer

- Praise God for His grace that initiates and sustains our growth.
- Confess complacency, discouragement, or misplaced effort in your spiritual life.
- Thank God that He is patiently growing you over time.
- Ask God to deepen your desire for Christlikeness.
- Pray for strength to make intentional effort in growth.
- Ask God to produce visible fruit in your life.

### Optional Take-Home Reflection

- What is one “petal” of growth God may be developing in your life right now? What has God provided to grow in that area, and how can you cooperate with Him this week?

