

Grow in Grace and in Knowledge

by Tow Siang Hwa

The sermon emphasizes the importance of being diligent in our walk with God, considering our own agenda, and being converted and strengthened by the Holy Spirit.

Duration: 45:04

Scripture: Galatians 5:16

Topics: "Grace"

Description

In this sermon, the preacher emphasizes the importance of growing in grace and knowledge as a follower of Christ. He references the theme verse of 2 Peter, where Peter writes with love and care for the sheep of God. The preacher then poses the question of whether our spirits are growing or going, urging the congregation to take this matter seriously. He directs the congregation to Hebrews 4:16, which highlights the concept of grace and encourages them to grow in it. The sermon also includes a revision of a previous message from Galatians 5, reminding the congregation of the importance of living a holy and godly life in light of the coming day of the Lord.

Transcript

2 Peter 3 verse 1 The second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you, in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance, that ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour, knowing this first, there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own last day, and saying, Where is the promise of his coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. For this they willingly are ignorant of, that is, they refuse to believe what they know to be true. Yes, they are willingly ignorant.

That by the word of the Lord, the heavens were created of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water, whereby the world that then was being overflowed with water perished. But the heavens and the earth which are now by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. Pause here and think.

Here we have read of two judgments. The first was by water, when the whole world was flooded over, and the evidence of this is seen everywhere. Everywhere you go, in all the continents, in all the mountains, in all the hills, wherever you go, from the Grand Canyon, to the Colorado, to the Rocky Mountains, to the Twelve Apostles in Australia, you just go to Malaysia, go to Philippines, go to China, all those rocks laid

down by water are the evidence of the first judgment.

Now we are talking of two judgments. The first was by water, and God will not judge by water again, because he has promised. It says the second time it will be by fire.

Are you ready for that? Now let us read on. Verse 7. But the heavens and the earth which are now by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and the perdition of ungodly men. That is the destruction and punishment of ungodly men.

Do not be included in this group. Verse 8. But beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, a thousand years as one day, because time in God's sight is immaterial. God dwells in eternity.

He does not go by second watch, does not watch, use a time clock at all. Verse 9. The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. But you must go and tell them.

As I said just now, do you know of a friend who is still outside Christ, a relative, somebody? Do you know nobody? Bring them. For the Lord is longsuffering, patient, waiting, longing for these people to come to hear the gospel, that they may not perish, but come to repentance. Verse 10.

But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise. How this will be we do not know, but do not be on earth at that time, because it will be very, very sad. The elements shall melt with fervent heat, earth also, and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in all holy conversation and godliness, looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat. You understand the elements? It is said the elements are the smallest particles that cannot be divided. That's why they are called atom.

You know what is atom? Atom. Atom means what? Indivisible. Cannot cut into two.

Atom. This is from two Greek words. But the Word of God says all these atoms will dissolve.

Amazing. When the Creator says dissolve, they will dissolve with great fervent heat. You know how one atom bomb releases the heat of thousands of conventional bombs.

One bomb. So here it is. God can do things we do not know.

Verse 13. Nevertheless, we according to his promise look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. Wherefore, beloved, seeing that you look for these things, be diligent, that we may be found of him in peace without spot and blameless.

Verse 18, our key verse, our theme verse. But grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever.

Amen. Let us pray. May I invite you, wherever you are, to spend just a moment in silent meditation, speaking to the Lord out of your heart.

For he searches every heart. He knows the secrets of every heart. He knows you better than you know yourself.

Spend just a moment in quiet prayer. Whatever is on your heart, you speak to the Lord and he will hear and answer. Eternal and Almighty Heavenly Father, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the one who has sent his only begotten Son to be our Saviour and Redeemer, the one whom we love and worship, O Lord our God, hear our prayer.

Bless all these thy people gathered here this morning, everyone who has come with a seeking heart, with expectations that we do not know but you know. O Lord our God, thou has heard all their pleas and their prayers, and may thou answer each one according to the faith and according to thy promise. We thank thee for the return of this holy day, the day that thou has appointed for thy people to remember thee, to honour thee, and to worship thee.

May we truly regard this day and treat it as a holy day, and that we will not in any way dishonour thee on this day, but we'll live in the knowledge and expectation that soon we will be gathered together with thee, and together in the everlasting Sabbath, find the rest which you only can give to us. Heavenly Father, I pray for that blessing on this church, the true life BP Church, that all the leaders, pastor and elders in session, and all the members will be fervent in spirit, serving the Lord, diligent in the daily quest of holy things, to serve thee in the dark and evil day, to realise the coming again of the Lord Jesus Christ is so near, and this world does slide away into deeper and deeper sinfulness. O Lord our God, save us, save us from this sinful world, that we will not be swept into the current of worldliness, of unchristian living, in a world of tension and turmoil.

May thy people look to thee. Our Heavenly Father, bless the children that have gone to the Sunday school. Please help the teachers to give the Word of God with love and with power, that young lives be saved and converted, and this church may grow.

O Lord our God, help all of us this morning to think and to dwell on the theme out of the book, out of the words written by thy servant Peter, that we may all consider how we may grow in grace and in the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. This is our heartfelt prayer, may thou answer it as we sit at thy feet, may thou speak to us by thy Spirit, we ask it in Jesus name, Amen. If you were here last week, I'll ask you another question.

Do you remember what we preached about? The passage we read and the lesson we learned? Maybe it's good we have a little revision. A revision is the secret of learning, so you turn with me to Galatians, so that before we go into today's message, we all have a little revision. How about that please? Galatians chapter 5 and to revise, I will not be preaching to you a new message, but I urge you, invite you, just read together with me all the verses that we are going to read.

And the book we read from was Galatians, the chapter is chapter 5, and we read from verse 16 to the end. So are you ready? I want everybody to read please, everyone. You know when I attend the Mandarin service, the fervency is double the English speaking people, double, easily.

I don't know why for some reason, and they say in China is treble. When they go to China, everybody who comes to worship is filled with the Spirit, because the opportunity to worship is not easily available, and they're under surveillance. But when they have the opportunity, they are really filled with the Spirit, and they read, they sing, they pray with great fervency, oftentimes with tears.

This is in China, and we get the semblance of it in the Mandarin service, but with the English, they're cool as cucumbers. I say please, pray that the Holy Spirit touch your heart, and you will be in the Spirit, to be really worshipping the Lord in Spirit and in truth. So please read together.

Galatians 5 verse 16, together please. This I say then, walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh.

And these are contrary one to the other, so that we cannot do the things that ye would. But if ye be led by the Spirit, ye are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revelings, and such like.

Of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance. Against such there is no law.

And they that are Christ have crucified the flesh with affection and lusts. If ye live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.

Amen. Question again, how is your walk? How was your walk the last week after you heard that message? Did it touch your heart to say, I better look into my life? Your walk is the way you live, the way you think, the way you talk, the way you conduct your whole lifestyle. How was it in the past week? You heard the sermon, didn't you? Of course.

Did it touch you? Did it move you? Did it sink into your heart and did it cause you to say, I think I better change in some part of my life? This is my prayer to all of us here that you will consider, that God will remind you. And by the way, as I preach, one thing you must do, not just listen, pray. You know what I mean? You cannot understand what you hear except you keep on praying, Holy Spirit please cause me to understand.

For what I am talking is the Word of God and this is powerful stuff, is deep stuff and it concerns our spiritual life, our spiritual well-being, our spiritual welfare and you cannot absorb it unless the Holy Spirit convicts you. You agree? If you are not in the Spirit, you never pray for the Holy Spirit, you hear one year in, one year out, you go home, you are unchanged, nothing happens. But I say if you come here, you took the trouble to come, it is an investment.

Investment in your time, in your energy, in your expense of driving or taking a bus here. This is an investment, what for? Of course you come for some benefit, pray. Pray that the Spirit of God will touch your heart and cause you to receive the message with joy.

For every word of God is profitable, to cause us to change our lives for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. This is the purpose of the Word of God, so I say as I preach, you pray. Who wrote this? Back to 2 Peter please, have your Bibles turned there now, 2 Peter.

Who wrote 2 Peter? Of course you say Peter, that is right. Then my next point is this, who was Peter? How much do you know? What do you know about Peter? I think most of us will remember that Peter denied the Lord three times, right? Do you not remember that? Of course you do. Peter was the spokesman, if you want to give him a word to describe Peter, he said he is the mouth, he talks before he thinks, too often.

And that night after the Lord's Supper, Jesus said to Peter, Simon, watch out, Satan is going to stumble you. But I have prayed for you. I said that was the greatest revelation.

Our Lord prays for us, even now. Hebrews 7.25 says, He makes intercession for us in heaven. Wonderful.

You believe in the Lord Jesus Christ? Are you saved by Him? You say, wonderful salvation, I was saved. But please understand, He not only saves you once, but He continues to save you, He prays for you. So He said to Peter, Peter, be encouraged.

I have prayed for you, that your faith fail not. You are going to do something very silly, something you will regret afterwards. You are going to do it.

But I have prayed for you, and I say you thank God, God prays for you. You may not know it, but this is the scriptures. And it says, I prayed for you that your faith fail not.

And when, listen to this carefully, He says to Peter, when you are converted, strengthen your brethren. While there is a warning, there is also a word of encouragement. Peter, you are going to stumble badly tonight.

But I pray for you, that your faith fail not, and then when you are converted, you know the Lord had a wonderful plan, to convert Peter. Not that he was not saved, but here conversion means, I shall change you. We all need to be converted, to be changed in our outlook of life, our way of life, our lifestyle needs to be converted.

So Jesus said to Peter, when you are converted, strengthen your brethren. Then what did Peter say to Jesus? Lord, you think so poorly of me. I am ready to go with you to prison, and to the death even.

Lord, that is me, Peter. Yes, of course, Jesus knew him too well. I say, you know, our Lord knows us better than we know ourselves.

You agree to that? Well, you say, maybe not. Well, Peter might have said that, but in the very next breath, Jesus said to him, Peter, you said you are willing, ready, right now to go to prison with me, and to die for me? Tonight, before the court closes three times, you are going to deny me twice. And he did that.

He denied the Lord three times. You say, well, what is the use for Peter? No more use, is that right? You deny the Lord, break your promise, not even to say, I am a Christian. You dare not even let people know you are a Christian.

No use. Please, we have a wonderful Lord. Never say you are no use.

The only thing is, you have no faith. We all need the faith to turn to the Lord. And Peter, in spite of his poor and miserable performance, after the resurrection at the lake site in Galilee, you remember what happened? Do you remember? Having finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, Peter, do you love me? Love me more than all these things? Yes.

Then the Lord says, feed my sheep. Second time, the same thing. Then the Lord says, feed my lambs.

Third time, the same thing. And Peter was very grieved in his heart. Lord, why do you keep asking me this thing? You know already.

Of course, Jesus knows, but this is to remind you, Peter, you denied me three times. Now I am asking you three times. You will never, never forget again.

Do you love me really? So I say, the Lord says the same thing to all of us. Do you really love me? And to Peter, he says, now if you really love me, feed my sheep. Do you know that when Jesus rose to heaven, all that he has on earth is sheep? You and me.

We are his best and only possession, his heritage. We are his. We are very precious to him.

And to Peter, he gave that special command, you feed my sheep. Question, did Peter forget this wonderful second commission? Answer, no. Never again.

After that, at Pentecost, he was converted. We all need that conversion. What is that conversion? The conversion is the filling of the Holy Spirit.

When the day comes that you confess all your sins, and Peter with a group of disciples in the upper room prayed for ten days. What do you think they were doing for ten days? Praying, confessing their sins, of course. All the sins, you know the apostles, how disunited the group they were.

Squabbling, quarrelling, even after the Lord's Supper, when the Lord turned around, they were all quarrelling about who is going to be the top dog. When Jesus brings in the kingdom, who is going to be the number one Prime Minister, Minister of this and the other, they were all quarrelling. When? After the Lord's Supper.

Now you say we all need to be converted. How are we converted? Ten days, prayer and supplication, united prayer. At that time, they began to pour out their sins, confess their sins, sins of rivalry, of jealousy, of envy, of hatred, one for another, until the Holy Spirit came.

When? The day of Pentecost. Now this is just by way of introduction so that you know. After that, whereas Peter was at one time so afraid to talk about Jesus, after that he could not stop talking about Jesus.

I said that's the same with all of us. Until the Holy Spirit comes and changes our life, you will be so tight-lipped, so shy. How can I let people know I'm a Christian? I don't know where to start, what to say.

Terrified. No, until the Holy Spirit comes, then Peter will stand up with the rest. Where? Before how many thousands? Thousands and thousands.

Where? In Jerusalem. Testifying of the risen Christ without fear. The only fear he had was fear of God, fear to offend God.

I say you pray for this. Once the Holy Spirit comes in your life, you cannot stop talking about Jesus to other people, praying for other people, and doing something for the Lord. You cannot stop it.

Why? As the Lord says, Peter, when you are converted, strengthen your brethren. Now Peter never forgot that. So that to the end of his life, from the day he received the second commission until the time he wrote the epistles, could have been 30 years or more.

So he wrote these two epistles, so wonderful. And the point I want to stress with you today is the third chapter. So please turn there.

2 Peter 3, verse 11. We cannot go through all the verses, but just a few, so that we all be reminded of what we are here for. Verse 11.

2 Peter 3, 11. Peter reasons with us. Look, we've read all the other verses, and are you convinced that there is a second judgment coming? Are you? Don't be fooled and deceived.

Now straight times news is getting better and better, especially after the new PM came in, you know. Things really improve, and people are really upbeat. And the other day I read in the front page, M M Lee says, things have never been so good.

We are just poised, poised for an upsurge of the economy. Everybody says, wonderful. What do you say? It's alright, it's alright.

It's better to have a boom than to have depression, right? Of course. Now this is the catch. When things are on the upbeat, and economy is booming away, that is the time when the great temptation will come.

Verse 11. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved. All the wonderful buildings, structures, designs, now with this multi-billion dollar casino complex and things coming up, everybody says, wonderful.

Listen. Verse 11. All these things shall be dissolved.

Nothing will be left one day. All that the people are planning, I'm not saying that you must not plan, you must not build, and you must not do anything. No, no, we're not saying that.

The world has its own agenda. We have our own agenda. Please do not confuse the two.

Our agenda is not the world's agenda. You've got to know your own agenda. God has a plan for you.

You're not part of the world. So listen. Verse 11.

Seeing that all these shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be? Yes. In all holy conversation, meaning living, conduct, lifestyle, the way you conduct things means conversation and godliness. Consider this please.

Consider what? Consider that you came to this service this morning as a member or a worshipper or a friend of True Life Bible Presbyterian Church because you are a Christian, because you are a confessed and professed believer and follower of the Lord Jesus Christ. I said, what for? Just to come every Sunday, pay your dues and pretend that you are Christian? I said, that's a waste of time. Do not waste your time.

Do something else better. Don't come. But if you do come, please come earnestly, honestly, sincerely and mean it.

Mean what you come for. Now you come here, the Word of God says, are you praying? Are you praying for the Holy Spirit to convince you of the truth? For unless the Holy Spirit convinces you of the truth, my preaching is nothing. It's nothing.

Verse 11 says, seeing that all these things shall be dissolved, all the things you see, the wonderful high-rise buildings, everything, not here, around the world, New York, Sydney, London, all these places, they're all under this category of destined for destruction. Why? They're all under the God of this world and

these things have a lifespan, a limit to it. Do you know that? If so, what manner of persons ought you to be, verse 11, to be in all holy living and godliness? How to have holy living in that unholy world? This is the biggest problem with Christians today.

It's very difficult. Agree? Who doesn't agree? Of course. It is a very difficult thing, but I say, is it possible? Difficult, but possible.

Yes, by faith and by the grace of God, it is a very difficult thing. Yes, I agree, but God gives grace, enables us and that is the theme of today. Read on now, please.

Verse 14, wherefore beloved, seeing that you look for such things, what do you look for? What do you look for daily? Please don't look at the things of the world, but look at the unseen things to come. For the things that are seen are temporal. The things that you do not see are eternal and those things God is preparing for them who love him, for them who believe in him.

There are great things coming, amazing things you cannot understand, you cannot imagine today, but they are true. In as much as your faith is unseen, but it is true. In the unseen saviour, it is true.

I know he is my wonderful Lord who died on the cross, who rose from the dead and he ascended to heaven, he is coming again. Is that true? You ask yourself. I say, if you don't think it is true, go home.

You are in the wrong place, you see. Now we are here to believe the word of God and to embrace it and to instill it right in the heart, because we know it is true, what the Lord says, I go to prepare a place for you, I will come again. Is that true? Alright.

You believe this is true? Now read on. Verse 14, wherefore beloved, seeing that you look for such things, be diligent. Please don't practice your Christianity half-heartedly, with a bit of reservation and never want to give your whole heart and life to the Lord, always a little bit only.

And the rest you keep for the world, I say, please do not do that. Be diligent and be found of him in peace, without spot and blameless. Can you say this? Can you say your Christian life is without spot and blameless? How can you know? Go to the mirror and look at the face, how your face looks.

Who came to church this morning and did not use a mirror? Is there anyone? You hands up, I give you a thousand dollars right away. Right, all of us did, right? What is the mirror of your soul? Here it is. The word of God is a mirror.

Did you read the word of God this morning? You go to the word of God every day and God will show you what you really are, how you really look. You don't know until you go to the mirror of God's word. He will tell you, he will show you your real person, your real self.

Then he will cause you to say, wow, I never knew. I never knew what? Never knew I look so awful, so tainted, so corrupted, I need to change. You go to God's word.

So this is what it says. Be diligent, be serious, take your Christianity seriously because God was very serious about your salvation. God was so serious, he sent his son to die for you.

Is that serious? Now you say you receive the salvation grace freely, by grace. You don't have to pay anything, you get it free. Now since it is free, it's so cheap, I do nothing.

I said don't. Please value the blood of Jesus Christ, it's beyond price. It's so precious, it's a shed for you.

Now he says be diligent, please be serious about your religion, about your Christianity and so that when the Lord comes, you may be in peace. You will not be terrified. Wow, the Lord is here, what should I do? I can't hide, I can't run.

Please don't. There is no need to. Come and make peace with God now, without spot and blameless, so that you can stand before him.

Finally verse 18, now this is the crunch verse, key verse, the theme. But grow in grace and in knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. This is the whole thrust of this letter.

Peter never forgot what the Lord told him at the lakeside in Galilee, right? How many of you have been to Galilee, sailed on the sea? We were there two months ago, you want to go again? Let's go. And there you see the beautiful sea and there was the Lord Jesus with the 11 disciples and he talked to them and he said to Peter, Peter you really love me? If you love me, feed my sheep three times. Peter never never forgot.

So that's why he wrote this epistle, full of love for the sheep, full of care and instruction on how my sheep, how the sheep of God may grow in grace and in knowledge. So this is it, the theme verse, grow in grace. Are you growing or are you going? Is your spiritual life growing or going? Please be very serious this morning.

How can you grow, to grow in grace? And what is grace? You know what is grace? And how can I grow in grace? I give you just a verse. We don't have too much time but I think we have time for this. The book is Hebrews.

All right, you turn backwards a few pages, not very much. Hebrews chapter 4 verse 16. We'll read together, shall we? Hebrews 4.16. I think you all got to sharpen your sword drill.

When they say Hebrews 4.12 or 4.16, you should get it like that and not starting from Genesis. Please don't. You don't need to.

Verse 16. Okay, everybody read please. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Again please. Hebrews 4.16. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. How can I grow in grace? Answer is here.

Right? Please see again. Here is the answer given by Paul, probably Paul. I think he was a writer of Hebrews although he doesn't say so.

And the answer is in Hebrews 4.16. I ask you, are you growing in grace? And you say, how can I grow in grace? Answer is Hebrews 4.16. Can you remember this? If I come next week, I'll ask you a question again. But of course I'm not coming next week. Hebrews 4.16. Shall we read again once more? Please everyone so you will not forget.

Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace that we may obtain mercy and find grace to find in time of need, to help in time of need. Now, let us quickly, in the time available, analyze this verse. It says, therefore come boldly.

Amazing. Which of you can walk to the Istana and see the president anytime you like? Is there anyone here? In the old days when I work in the university, I get invited there once a year. Once a year.

And not boldly but sheepishly. Go there to see the big man and for one hour and then quickly sling away. But here is the king of the universe, please understand, the creator, the great God's redeemer.

And he says to us, come boldly anytime but always with heart prepared though. Don't just come haphazardly. Come boldly with heart prepared, expectant and confident that when I come to the throne of grace boldly, God is going to meet my need.

This is the promise. What do you need? Grace. This is what I am saying this morning.

What do you need? This morning is grace. And the answer is, how to get? Hebrews 4.16, come boldly. Who says so? The Lord Jesus says, I am there waiting for you.

You know the problem with us is not because God is not there. He is always there. Not because the throne of grace is not available.

It is always available. What is the problem then? We don't go to the throne of grace. We don't pray.

So many Christians do not pray. Don't know how to pray. That's why I wrote 66 prayers about 20 years ago in order to instruct people how to pray.

So that you know how to go to the throne of grace and what to say at the throne of grace. Now here it is. Please follow.

Verse 16. Let us therefore come boldly. Yes, anytime.

Not haphazardly. Not anyhow. But boldly meaning I have put my faith in the Lord.

I know He will not cast me out. He will not reject me. I can come boldly in that sense.

Do you come? Did you pray this morning? How can I get grace? Answer is here. Because you don't pray, you don't get grace. And what is grace? Grace is God's enabling.

For you to do the things you never knew you could do. For you to smile in the midst of sorrow, obstacles, setback, disappointments, even in death, you can face it with a smile. That is grace.

Who can give you that grace? Can you get out of a novel by watching a film in a cinema or by some pep talk and say I am now able to face death? I say you cannot get it anywhere else. Right? Let us therefore come boldly. Always, every morning, noon and night, come boldly to the throne of grace and hear the Saviour is waiting.

He never fails that appointment. He is always there. The problem is we do not go.

Alright, back to verse 16. Therefore come boldly to the throne of grace and there meet with the Saviour who is waiting for you. The Saviour is always waiting for you.

And now when you come there, please do not hurry. Stay a while. Meditate and search yourself before the Saviour and speak with Him.

He is longing to speak with you. And when you speak with Him, pray with Him and He is going to do wonderful things you never knew in your life. To strengthen your faith for when you have the faith, then you have the grace to face difficulties.

I said disappointment, yes, it will come. When you have the grace of God, you can face disappointments, setbacks, failures, even death by His grace. You can face it and you can say, I know my Redeemer lives.

I know in Him there is a victory over death. So you can face those things, yes. Read on please.

Come boldly unto the throne of grace that we may obtain mercy. When you come, God gives you mercy. What is mercy? Mercy is not punishing you for the things you deserve.

Is there anyone here who does not need mercy at all? Oh my friends, we all need that mercy. All of us are sinners. All of us deserve punishment.

But when you come to the throne of grace, there is mercy. You will find mercy and grace. Here is the source of grace.

We are going to conclude. Did you come this morning? Did you receive the grace? Did you ask for grace? Please, let there be a change in your prayer style. We live in a society of everything fast, fast food.

And there is enough fast prayers, very fast. I don't know, God knows all I need. So my prayer is so fast.

Finished. Please, the Lord is waiting for you. And He is waiting there to have communion with you.

How do you have communion? How do you have fellowship? How do you have a time of intercessory prayer? A time of supplication? You go and see the King and you have some urgent matter. You don't just say, King, this is it. Take it and I run away.

You don't. You take time and the King is there so gracious, so happy to see you. You take time and He says what? You will obtain mercy.

We all need mercy. Or if not for God's mercies, we will be finished. So stay a while.

Stay at the throne of grace. And He gives you mercy and He will give you grace upon grace. All the grace you need plus a bonus, more than what you need to sustain you for the next trial, the next time you meet with something very terrible, you have grace.

You can face it. You can go through life with complete confidence in the Lord. Now we end.

2 Peter 3.18, right? But grow in grace. This is Peter's prayer for all of us. Because the Lord says, feed my sheep.

Don't forget my only inheritance and property on earth is my sheep. Nothing more, nothing less. We are the sheep.

And Peter says, all of you grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. To Him be glory now and forever. Amen.

Let us pray. Our Father in heaven, grant that we may all come to your holy throne of grace, often with empty hands to be filled, with expectant hearts to be satisfied, with that longing that we know the Savior is

waiting for us. Oh Lord our God, teach us the lesson of gratitude.

To know that all we are, all we have comes from the hand of the Father, freely by grace, through faith. This is our prayer. In Jesus name.

Amen.

Audio: <https://sermonindex1.b-cdn.net/12/SID12103.mp3>

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