

THE SPIRITUAL GROWTH OF THE BELIEVER

Introduction: Peter wrote about the living hope that believers receive when born again by Christ in chapter one. In chapter two he wrote about the believers' need to grow in their spiritual life.

Lesson Aim: Learn how believers are to develop in their spiritual lives so they can please God.

Memory Verse: "As newborn babes, desire the sincere (or, pure) milk of the Word, that you may grow thereby" (1 Pet 2:2).

Outline of the Lesson and Questions to Answer:**I. Newborn Babes — 2:1-3**

1. Name five things that keep believers from growing. 2:1
2. Underline the word that best defines "malice" (mischievous, hatred, crafty); "guile" (cunning, devilish, stubborn); "hypocrisy" (pride, snobbish, insincere); "envy" (hostility, lustful, jealousy).
3. How do believers grow in their spiritual lives? 2:2
4. What do believers learn about God when they drink the milk of His Word? 2:3

II. Spiritual House — 2:4-10

5. Name four things that are said about Jesus when He is portrayed as a stone. 2:4
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____
6. Both Christ and Christians are living stones in the spiritual house that God is building, but what is the difference? 2:5-6
7. All Christians are priests. What are some sacrifices they can offer God that will promote spiritual growth in their lives? Rom 12:1; Heb 13:15-16
8. Christ is precious to believers, but what is He to unbelievers? 2:7-8
9. Give four descriptions of believers. 2:9
 - a. A _____ generation
 - b. A _____ priesthood
 - b. A _____ nation
 - d. A _____ (special) people
10. What growth should the truths in 2:9-10 produce in a believers' treatment of God? 2:9

III. Strangers and Pilgrims — 2:11-25

11. What is warring against believers in an attempt to stop their spiritual growth? 2:11
12. What must believers do with those speaking evil against them that will enable them to grow spiritually? 2:12-15
13. Obedience produces growth. Who should believers honor? _____ and the _____ (president). Who should they love? The _____. Who should they fear (respect highly)? _____. 2:17
14. How should servants (and employees) act to grow and be commendable before God? 2:18-20
15. What example did Jesus leave for believers to follow in order to aid them in their growth? 2:21-23
16. How did Jesus' suffering and death on the cross affect the believers' growth? 2:24