

“GROW-OLGY”

2 Peter 3:18

Philip Yancey called “*grace*,” the “*last best word*.” He wrote grace is “*Christianity’s best gift to the world., a spiritual nova in our midst exerting a force stronger than vengeance, stronger than racism, stronger than hate.*” The Bible reminds Christ-followers that we are to “*grow in grace.*” What does that look like? Today, we examine four characteristics of those who grow in grace.

1. Humility before a holy God

“They were calling to one another: ‘Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of His glory.’ ‘Woe to me!’ I cried. ‘I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty.’” Isaiah 6:3,5

“But He gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: ‘God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.’ Come near to God and He will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.” James 4:6,8

“For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say ‘No’ to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age.” Titus 2:11-12

“Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.”
2 Corinthians 7:1

2. Honor for the Word of God

Jesus: *“Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.”* Matthew 4:4

“Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation.” 1 Peter 2:2

“By this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God’s Word all over again. You need milk, not solid food!” Hebrews 5:12

3. Harmony with the people of God

“Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification.”
Romans 14:19

“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.” Ephesians 4:32

4. Hunger for giving to God

“I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints.” 2 Corinthians 8:3,4

“Just as you excel in everything - in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us - see that you also excel in this grace of giving.” 2 Corinthians 8:7

5. Heart for those without God

“With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all.” Acts 4:33

“In order that in the coming ages He might show the incomparable riches of His grace, expressed in His kindness to us in Christ Jesus.” Ephesians 2:7

“For we are to God the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. To the one we are the smell of death; to the other, the fragrance of life.” 2 Corinthians 2:15-16

CONCLUSION

- What evidence is there in my life of growth in God’s grace?

PRIMARY RESOURCES USED FOR THIS SERMON INCLUDE:

The Grip of Grace by Max Lucado
What’s So Amazing About Grace? by Philip Yancey
Grace Awakening by Charles Swindoll