Dear Open Door Family,

When I was a lot younger I was always up for a challenge. Like to see how close could I water ski to the dock without hitting it (that was a real dumb one). Or how to see how many pints of A&W Root Beer I could you drink in a one hour period of time. I've done many things because I was challenged. Some of them good and noble, and others very dumb or foolish. But when it comes to following the Lord with ALL our Hearts - Pursuing a deeper walk with Jesus, that is a challenge that is truly WORTHY of our time and efforts. Let's look at these verses together.

***2 Peter 3:18*** *(NIV) But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.*

***2 Peter 1:2*** *(NIV) Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.*

Verse 18 is the last verse in the book of second Peter. It's almost as if Peter gets to the end and wants to tell them one more time that they need to pursue their walk with Jesus Christ, that they need to pursue their relationship with Him more and more. The best way to guard against false teachers and false teaching is to fall more in love with Jesus. So he ends with this amazing challenge. GROW in the GRACE and KNOWLEDGE of Jesus. This really does take us back all the way to the first chapter where Peter started out by saying that the ABUNDANCE of Grace and peace comes to us through our Knowledge of...or through knowing God and our Lord Jesus. So as he comes to the end of the book he essentially says, KEEP ON GROWING in your relationship with Jesus. JC Ryle gives these thoughts about growing in Grace:

**Growing in Grace Will Require...**

...spending time alone with God in prayer, Bible reading, Meditation and self-examination
...a commitment to corporate worship, praise, and being with God's People
...a submission of our tempers, tongues, and use of Time to Jesus
...a careful weighing of all our relationships (do they draw us closer to Jesus or drive us away)
...a daily pursuit of intimacy with the Lord Jesus Christ.

Ryle goes on to say "...A believer may have his feet on the rock, and yet live far below his privileges."

**PRAYER:** Lord, help me to seek you with all my heart. May I take up the lifelong challenge of seeking to know You better and better each day.

Pastor Mark Kieft
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