

A STUDY IN 2 PETER · SPIRITUAL GROWTH

# What Happens When There Are Gaps in Our Spiritual Growth

*2 Peter 1:1–12*



*His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and  
godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to  
his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us  
his precious and very great promises...*

— **2 Peter 1:3-4 (ESV)**

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**THE PROMISE OF COMPLETE GROWTH**

# The Spiritual Growth Model

EIGHT QUALITIES — ONE FRUITFUL LIFE



🌱 2 Peter 1:5–7 · "Add to your faith..."

♥ FAITH → LOVE · 8 QUALITIES



—STEP 1—

# Faith — The Seed

*Everything begins with a single seed planted in good soil.*



**Faith is the starting point — without it, nothing else can grow.**



**A seed not planted is a life never started.**



**Gaps in faith leave the ground bare and unproductive.**

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*...Add to your faith...*

# Preparing the Soil & Watering the Seed



## STEP 2

### **VIRTUE** — Soil Preparation

Virtue is moral excellence that prepares the heart. Rocky, hardened soil cannot receive seed. We must cultivate character before we can

grow.

*2 Peter 1:5*



## STEP 3

### **KNOWLEDGE** — Watering

Knowledge of God feeds and sustains growth. Without watering, even planted seeds wither and die.

Gaps in knowledge leave us

spiritually dry.

*2 Peter 1:5*

# Weeding & Weathering

*Steps 4 & 5 — Guarding What God Has Planted*



## **SELF-CONTROL — WEEDING**

Weeds of sin choke spiritual growth. Self-discipline removes what does not belong.



## **PERSEVERANCE — WEATHERING**

Storms come — drought, frost, pests. The plant that endures becomes strong.



## **THE COST OF GAPS — SELF-CONTROL**

Gaps in self-control allow weeds to overrun the garden — sin spreads where discipline is absent.



## **THE COST OF GAPS — PERSEVERANCE**

Gaps in perseverance cause us to give up before harvest — the branch breaks before bearing fruit.

| "...add to your self-control, perseverance..." — 2 Peter 1:6

# From Root to Fruit

*The final three qualities — completing the harvest*

## GODLINESS — Healthy Plant

### STEP 6

A godly life is a plant in full health — upright, rooted, growing toward the light.

2 Peter 1:6

## BROTHERLY KINDNESS — Branches

### STEP 7

Branches reach outward.  
Brotherly kindness is how we extend love into community.

2 Peter 1:7

## LOVE — The Fruit

### STEP 8

Love is the visible, tangible result of a life fully grown. It is the harvest others can see and share.

2 Peter 1:7

## The Consequence of Gaps

*For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For*

“ *whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins.*”

2 Peter 1:8–9 (ESV)

**INEFFECTIVE &  
UNFRUITFUL**

*Gaps are not neutral — they lead to spiritual blindness.*

# What Gaps Produce

2 PETER 1:8–9 — TWO OUTCOMES, ONE CHOICE

▶ **THRIVING**

## THE FRUITFUL LIFE

*All 8 qualities present & growing*

- ✓ Effective in ministry
- ✓ Fruitful in knowledge of Christ
- ✓ Walking in full assurance
- ✓ Others can taste the harvest

vs

✗ **BARREN**

## THE BARREN LIFE

*Gaps in the spiritual growth chain*

- ✗ Spiritually nearsighted
- ✗ Blind to their own condition
- ✗ Forgotten their cleansing from sin
- ✗ Cannot bear fruit for others

*“Gaps in growth don’t just slow us  
— they make us blind.”*

# Make Your Calling and Election Sure

*A call to diligence, confidence, and daily cultivation*



## **BE DILIGENT**

Seal your calling through faithful practice of all 8 qualities. Diligence is the daily discipline that makes election certain.



## **YOU WILL NEVER STUMBLE**

Consistent growth provides sure footing. A life built on all 8 virtues is a life that walks with confidence and stability.



## **AN ENTRANCE RICHLY PROVIDED**

An abundant entrance into the eternal kingdom will be richly provided. The fruitful life earns a glorious welcome home.



## **A DAILY REMINDER**

Peter reminds us: spiritual growth is not automatic — it must be cultivated daily. The garden of the soul requires constant tending.

# Don't Leave Gaps in Your Garden.

*Every quality in 2 Peter 1 is a divine invitation to grow.*

## **EXAMINE**

Where are the gaps in your spiritual growth? Honest self-examination is the first step toward a fruitful life.

## **CULTIVATE**

Begin adding what is missing — one quality at a time. Growth is not automatic; it must be tended with diligence each day.

## **BEAR FRUIT**

A full life in Christ is visible, effective, and fruitful. Others can taste the harvest of a life wholly surrendered to Him.