

Family TableTalk

Conversation 41

Spiritual Pencil Marks

read

II Peter 3:14-18

think

In our family, the edge of a cabinet in our kitchen has been used to record with pencil marks the physical growth of our children over the years. When we hear “grow,” many images may come to your mind of shoe sizes, school subjects, or work skills.

Peter concludes his second letter to early Christians with “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” We tend to accept that we can grow in knowledge, but we can easily skip around the idea of growing in grace. The context here is both believers’ hardship and the hope of Christ’s return. In the hardship, we look to the certainty of Jesus and his grace. This confidence in him does not bring us to freeze or pause, but rather it moves us to be active by faith.

Many times trials can distract or discourage our faith. The biblical perspective is that the Living Lord is using the difficulty for our good. Even when we don’t understand everything in Scripture, as Peter comments here about Paul’s writings, we know Jesus and the Scriptures are our stability. The struggle itself is a catalyst for us to cling to Christ, to grow in our dependency upon his grace. Only later will we be able to look back and see the spiritual pencil marks that the Lord is graciously giving to us.

apply

- What current area is inviting you to cling to Christ, in order to grow in his grace?
- In what ways can our family encourage one another to grow in God’s grace?

pray

Lord Jesus, you both saved us by grace through faith and sustain us by your grace. Lead us to lean into your rich grace and to grow in it, for the sake of your name and your Kingdom. Amen.

by Jason Holt

Jason Holt serves as the National Youth Director for the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations (AFLC) in Minneapolis, Minnesota. AFLC Youth Ministries can be found at www.aflc.org/youth.

cpyu.org  **CPYU**
CENTER FOR PARENT/YOUTH UNDERSTANDING

© 2020 Center For Parent/Youth Understanding