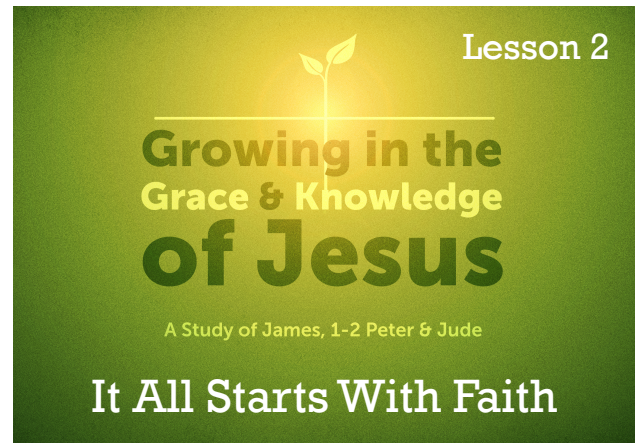


Where does growing in the grace and knowledge of Jesus **begin**? It all starts with faith. **Jude 3** gives us a good foundation for everything else we're going to talk about:

Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for \_\_\_\_\_ that was once for all delivered to the saints.



God has **delivered** something. Think about that. It's called "the faith." It was delivered by God "once for all." Okay. So what? What does that have to do with me? **James 2:1** encourages us to "\_\_\_\_\_ the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory." And if we do? Listen to **2 Peter 1:1**:

Simeon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ,

To those who have obtained a faith of \_\_\_\_\_ standing with ours by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ...

God has delivered "the faith," once for all. We need to learn about it and hold on to it. And what happens if we do? Notice the difference that God can make in our lives.

For this very reason, make every effort to supplement \_\_\_\_\_ faith with virtue...  
(**2 Pet 1:5**)

Because God has delivered "the faith," I can grow to have faith of my own. But faith in *what* or *who*? **1 Peter 1:20-21** answers that question for us...

He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are \_\_\_\_\_.

Does faith in God really matter that much? Can it *really* make that big of a difference? Peter describes genuine faith as "more precious than \_\_\_\_\_" (**1 Pet 1:7**). Why? How?

- ◆ Faith **guards** us - "...who by God's power are being guarded \_\_\_\_\_ faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time." (**1 Pet 1:5**)
- ◆ Faith has a wonderful **outcome** - "Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the \_\_\_\_\_ of your faith, the salvation of your souls." (**1 Pet 1:8-9**)

So what could be more important than being "\_\_\_\_\_ " in faith (**James 2:5**)? God wants to help me and you become **strong** in faith of our own, because we're going to need it.

Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, \_\_\_\_\_ in your faith... (**1 Pet 5:8-9**)

How can I? How can you be **firm** in your faith? We have to grow—grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (**2 Pet 3:18**). And it all starts with faith.

## For Class & Family Discussion:

- In your own words, what is faith?
- When Jude describes God as delivering “the faith” once for all (Jude 3), what is he talking about? What’s the difference between “the faith” and individual, personal faith?
- So how can I “hold the faith” (James 2:1)? What does that mean? What’s it look like?
- How can I possibly have “a faith of equal standing” with someone like Peter (2 Pet 1:1)?
- What’s the difference between having a parent or grandparent who believes in God and having what I could describe as “my faith” (2 Pet 1:5)? Is it important for *me* to have faith of my own? If so, why?
- Could personal faith and hope in God really be “more precious than gold” (1 Pet 1:7)? If so, how?
- How does personal faith “guard” me (1 Pet 1:5)?
- When Peter describes faith as having an “outcome” (1 Pet 1:9), what does he mean? What does he want us to see and understand?
- Why is being “rich in faith” (James 2:5) more important than being rich in anything else?
- Can you think of anyone you know that you could describe as being “firm” in faith (1 Pet 5:9). Why would you describe them that way? What difference is faith making in their life?