

1. The importance of growth
2. "By grace are you saved" Ephesians 2
3. There is grace available for every need or trial  
1 Peter 5:10 2 Corinthians 12:9
4. Grace is a gift and is cultivated by love and obedience

D. Conclusion

Growth and spirituality are hard to measure in ourselves and others. The best measuring in my opinion lies in the matter of worship, commitment, and obedience to the known will of God: the Scriptures.

But as we are alive we are enabled to live in the new season and to see it develop the testimony of God. The new season is encouraged by the present....as it shows how our lives may honor the Lord who has called us to Himself.

IV. A New Season: Challenged by the Future: Hebrews 12:1-14

A. Introducing our discussion:

We are not overly intelligent about the future. There are some things we know about it in general while knowing less of the specifics. For instance, we know that the enemy will continue to deceive and assault the testimony, we know that the Holy Spirit will continue to support the testimony and give a path of guidance for us; we know that the promises the Lord has made will be fulfilled; we know that Our Lord is coming again and the prophetic program will be fulfilled, we know that our state of redemption is certain and we know many other things in these general lines. We do not know all the steps that will be taken but we know that the end is sure and in that light we live in the joy of the Lord. We, in this new season, are challenged by what will come to pass to live in the present for the glory of the Lord. The future calls us to faithfulness and the hope for tomorrow stimulates the energies needed for today. No doubt some more of my stories will appear at this point so...be patient, please!

B. Some questions bringing us to terms with today and tomorrow:

1. Will we seriously take responsibility for the exercise of our spiritual gifts and privileges? (1 Corinthians 9)