

COMPELLING GROWTH

From the series – 1 PETER: COMPELLING CHURCH

SUMMARY

The fullness of God’s salvation is experienced as we grow, putting off who we once were and putting on who God has declared us to be in Christ. Spiritual struggle is not a sign of spiritual defeat but spiritual life. Struggle is evidence that God is at work in our lives producing in us the fullness of God’s salvation. If we’d be a compelling church, then **COMPELLING GROWTH** must become our reality.

REFLECT

In five years, how would you like to describe yourself, not physically but as a person?
What will it take for you to grow into this description?

BIBLE STUDY & DISCUSSION

1. Read [1 Peter 2:1-3](#) – Peter is calling the people of God to ‘get rid of’, ‘be done with’ or ‘put off’ that which is not consistent with their new life in Christ. What is the common denominator with the sins Peter lists and how would these sins specifically impact the community/church of God? What might God be asking you to ‘put off’ today?
2. Read [1 Peter 2:2a](#) – God calls us to ‘crave pure spiritual milk.’ What is this pure spiritual milk that Peter is referring to? What things do you crave yet provide no satisfaction? How can ‘desiring the things of God’ help you to give up these other things?
3. Read [1 Peter 2:4](#) – Peter refers to Jesus as the ‘*living Cornerstone of God’s temple.*’ What does that mean to you? Read [1 Cor. 6:19-20](#) - If God’s people are the ‘temple of God’, how should Jesus as the ‘living Cornerstone’ impact how we live together? How should these truths encourage you in times of trouble and suffering?
4. Read [1 Peter 2:5, 9, 11-12](#) – three specific identities are given to Christ-followers: living stones, holy & royal priests of God, and sojourners. What do you think about these descriptions? Which one is harder for you to believe in yourself? How do these identities enable you to ‘put on’ daily who God has declared you to be?
5. Practically, how can you apply your identity as ‘living stone’, ‘holy and royal priest’, and ‘sojourner’ to how you live so that those far from God might see Him in who you are?