

INTRO

- If you could be on an extreme makeover show, what would it be for (home, style, fitness, etc)?

We're continuing our Vision and Values series by expressing the culture we want to cultivate at ENGTA. Today, we explore the values of *Growing* and *Empowering*.

READ

2 Peter 1:3-8

REFLECT & RESPOND

God calls us to a life of transformation, where His grace empowers our growth and our intentional effort shapes our discipleship. Together, they lead to fruitfulness and impact for His kingdom. Let's break 2 Peter 1:3-8 down:

1. Growth requires God's GRACE.

In verse 3, we're reminded that God has already given us *everything* we need for a godly life. Like an IKEA box with all the necessary parts, we have the raw materials for spiritual development. The key is accessing God's grace through His presence, Word, people, and mission.

2. Growth requires Our EFFORT.

Growth isn't passive. We're instructed to 'make every effort' to mature as followers of Jesus. This isn't about earning salvation but partnering with God in our ongoing discipleship.

3. Growth results in effective & fruitful lives (v8). We are empowered to be His disciples to advance His kingdom wherever he calls us.

Qu: How can we reconcile the concept of God's grace with the instruction to 'make every effort' in our spiritual lives?

At ENGTA, we are committed to being a church that makes disciples and empowers leaders through the following:

- **A culture of GROWING** (a disciple-making church): seeing people grow spiritually to become mature followers of Jesus.
- **A culture of EMPOWERING** (a leader-producing church): members develop their gifts and are equipped to live out the implications of their faith in business, the arts, education, government, the family, and all of life.

The two values fuel and overlap each other, but it is helpful to make them distinct.

Qu: We describe discipleship as "following Jesus in community on his mission." How are you currently living this out? Where do you see room for growth?

Qu: How can you contribute to creating a church culture that empowers people to live out their faith in all aspects of life?

Practical Application:

- Take some time this week to reflect on your spiritual journey. Where were you "then," and where are you "now"?
- Identify areas of growth that need more attention regarding your relationship with Jesus, with others in our church community, and with his mission in the world.
- Consider these pathways in our church:
 - **Get Connected (Groups):** a place for connection, care and challenge.
 - **Get Involved (Teams):** opportunities for serving, discovering, and using your gifts and talents.
 - **Get Equipped (Courses):** knowledge and application to grow spiritually (foundations, membership, discipleship, leadership).

RESPOND & PRAY

- In light of Philippians 1:6, Thank God for His grace, which empowers our growth.
- Ask for His help in making every effort to grow as disciples and to live effective, productive lives for His kingdom.