

# **SOUTHWEST LIFE GROUP BIBLE STUDY**

**5-20-07 – Senior Blessing/Graduation Sunday**

**OPEN:** What graduations have you experienced in your lifetime? Are there some that you are particularly proud of? Why?

**DISCUSS:** When a student is in school, he is working quite intentionally towards a “graduation.” They can “track” their progress simply with questions like “what grade am I in?” and “which classes have I passed?” and “how much longer until school’s out.” And the “graduation event” is the clear-cut end of their identity being defined in one way, and the crystal clear beginning of a new one.

- How is spiritual growth into Christlikeness similar to this?
- How is spiritual growth into Christlikeness nothing like this?

**DIG: Read 2 Peter 1:5-9** - *“For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; 6 and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; 7 and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. 8 For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

- How is what Peter is saying here like “graduating”?
- Why does Peter want his readers to keep “graduating” in all of these qualities? What does it protect them from?
- What happens to a person’s spirit or emotions when they feel ineffective and unproductive in *any area* of their life? What can this lead to?
- What happens to Christian’s who feel ineffective and unproductive in their “knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ”?

## **REFLECT:**

1. Evaluate where you are in “school” in the following areas with your group.  
*How is God trying to increase your faith? How are you?*  
*How is God trying to increase your knowledge? How are you?*  
*How is God trying to increase your self-control? How are you?*  
*How is God trying to increase your perseverance? How are you?*  
*How is God trying to increase your brotherly kindness? How are you?*  
*Am I growing in the grace of giving?*  
*Am I growing in the grace of encouragement?*  
*Am I growing in the grace of talking about Christ with others?*
2. What is one thing, no matter how small, that you need to commit to doing to take responsibility for your spiritual growth (give yourself the blessing of being specific)?

**PRAY:** Pray for our brothers and sisters in this years graduating class. And pray for all of our continual graduation as Peter instructs.