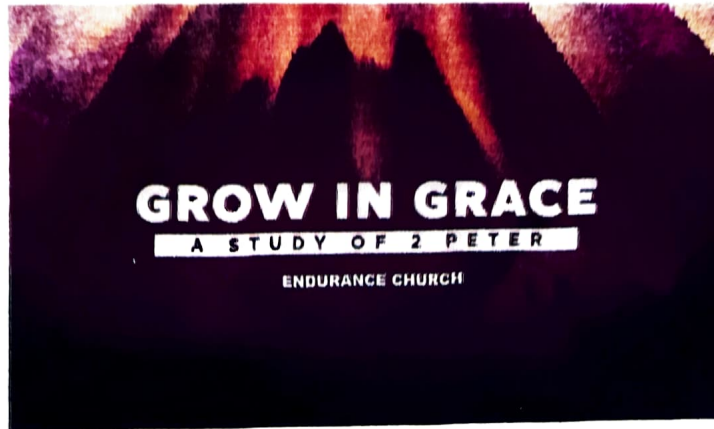




"In This Way!"

1. "In this way!"

- **2 Peter 1:9** – "But, to those who fail to develop IN THIS WAY are shortsighted or blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their old sins."
- I don't want to be a person who ever forgets what Jesus has done for me!
- **Psalm 103:2** – "Forget not all His benefits / good things!"
- **1 Corinthians 11:24** – "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me."
- **Ephesians 4:32** – "Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you."
- I don't want to forget! Forgetting God leads to only disaster!
- The greatest sins that the Israelites did was forgetting about God and what He did for them! **Deuteronomy 8:10-20** *The WARNINGS were real!*
- **Psalm 9:17** warns the nations that they will end up in Hell if they forget God!
- **Grow in "this way?" 2 Peter 3:18!**

2. Shortsighted or Blind!

- **2 Peter 1:9**
- **Shortsighted** = an eye/vision problem where distant objects appear blurry.
- **Shortsighted** = a personality trait where a shortsighted person lacks foresight, making decisions without considering future consequences.
- It's a vision issue or a choice issue...one of the two!
- God wants you to be able to trust Him in the present and for the future! **Proverbs 3:5-6**
- I don't know what the rest of the day holds. I don't know what tomorrow holds. I don't know what this week, month or next year holds! **But, I know the One who holds it all together Colossians 1:17!**
- **Peter says that FAILING to know and keep the Promises of God will keep you shortsighted!**
- To not be held back or down by the weight and sin of this world, but to run the race that He has for you! **Hebrews 12:1-2**
- **John 8:32** – You will KNOW the Truth and the Truth will set you free! **2 Peter 1:12-13**

- We believe God's Word and it is light **2 Peter 1:16-19**! It is our guide to the right path!
Psalm 119:105

An example to what it looks like on how we run for God?

- I love how God created animals with all of their different functions and features! It truly is amazing!
- We have named the animals and even their group names!
- Bees are called Swarms. Ants are called Colonies. Whales are called Pods. Fish are called schools. Cattle are herds. Birds are flocks. Lions are a Pride. Tower of Giraffes'.
- **LOL** – A group of Buzzards are called a Committee! We don't need this in the church!
- **LOL** – A group of Alligators are called a Congregation! I will stop right here for now... ☺

*Here is the one that I like!!! A group of two or more Black Rhinos are called a CRASH! The name fits very well!

- Here is the catch! The Black Rhino can only see 31ft! Beyond that it can't see a thing!
- It is shortsighted by nature. Yet, it will run full speed at 30mph and keep running ahead!
- **The Black Rhino can't see past 31ft, but it runs full steam ahead!**
- It does not let its shortsightedness stop it!
- We do not let our sin stop us! Instead, with trust and faith, run the race that God has for us!
- We need to decide! I'm not living life shortsighted because I am not willing to trust God and His promises.
- But, *"I see through glass darkly or imperfectly"* **1 Corinthians 13:12**!
- I can't see a lot of the future! We have glimpses from the Bible, but not all!
- So, like the Black Rhino, we run full steam ahead, *"we live by faith...not by sight"* **2 Corinthians 5:7**, so that what I can't see...God guides me in!
- Yet, back to **1 Corinthians 13:12**...*"but THEN we will see everything with perfect clarity! All that I know now is partial and incomplete, but THEN I will know everything completely, just as God knows me completely."*
- I thank God that He removes our sin! That we can run ahead knowing He is there!

Closing: I Thank God that I have His Word so that I can know Jesus for real!

- **2 Peter 1:20-21**
- **2 Peter 3:18**
- 31ft doesn't stop a CRASH of Rhinos! God has already seen our future!
- He sees every detail!
- So, can you imagine what God could do in and through your life, your family, this church in this area if we all GROW together in Christ?
- **Big results for His Kingdom!**