

I. Know the Plan - 2 Peter 3:16-18: Command to Grow

People who are anti-authority fail to realize that when someone gives them a command it permits them the opportunity to exercise their freedom.

The command to “keep on growing” expresses God's desire that the believer use his divine assets to learn the Christian way of life and then live it.

The believer may respond to this command either positively or negatively.

If he responds negatively, he will “drift off course from grace” and engage in self-destruction due to ignorance of the plan.

This is the *Law of Volitional Responsibility*. God commands us to use assets which He imputed to us at salvation in order to learn His plan.

He never commands us to do something we are not capable of doing.

His assets are sufficient to lead us to a clear understanding of His plan and to enable us to execute the Christian way of life.

Failure of the believer to respond means he must take the responsibility for his own decisions.

God does not permit human ideas, human energy, and human rationales to successfully solve the problems of the Angelic Conflict.

Therefore, those who reject divine mandates are certainly free to do so but they become losers and failures because of it.

God cannot help them until they recognize their error, confess it to Him, and then respond positively to the mandates.

Any believer who responds positively to the command to “*keep on growing*” will acquire a knowledge of the truth and he will be blessed as a result.

This command, because of the durative present tense requires that positive response to be a daily occurrence.

Further, the believer produces the action from his own volitional motivation to comply.

The major problem which arises after a person believes in Christ for salvation is that he is completely ignorant of any biblical mandates.

It is therefore imperative for him to get into a local church which can accurately teach the Scriptures.

If there is an extended lag time between salvation and growth, then this believer is jeopardized by his susceptibility to the doctrines of the Cosmic Academy.

Nollinger, Mark. “Something Weird Is Coming to A TV Near You.” TV Guide. 22 Oct. 1994, pp. 16-20.