

terms of growing toward spiritual maturity.

In this tenth lesson (and in number eleven) we want to ask four basic questions:

How do we go about growing toward spiritual maturity?

Do we really need to work on developing Christian character and conduct?

What happens if we do not develop Christian character and conduct?

What happens if we do?

To help us find answers to these questions, let us turn to 2 Peter 1:1-11 (NIV).

2 Peter 1:1-11 Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ,

To those who through the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ have received a faith as precious as ours:

2 Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

3 His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. **4** Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

5 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. **9** But if anyone does not have them, he is nearsighted and blind, and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins.

10 Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never fall, **11** and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

The first question of this lesson is:

I. HOW DO WE GO ABOUT GROWING TOWARD SPIRITUAL MATURITY?

In verse 3 Peter says that God's power has given us everything we need for life and godliness. Is Peter speaking of physical life or earthly life or spiritual life