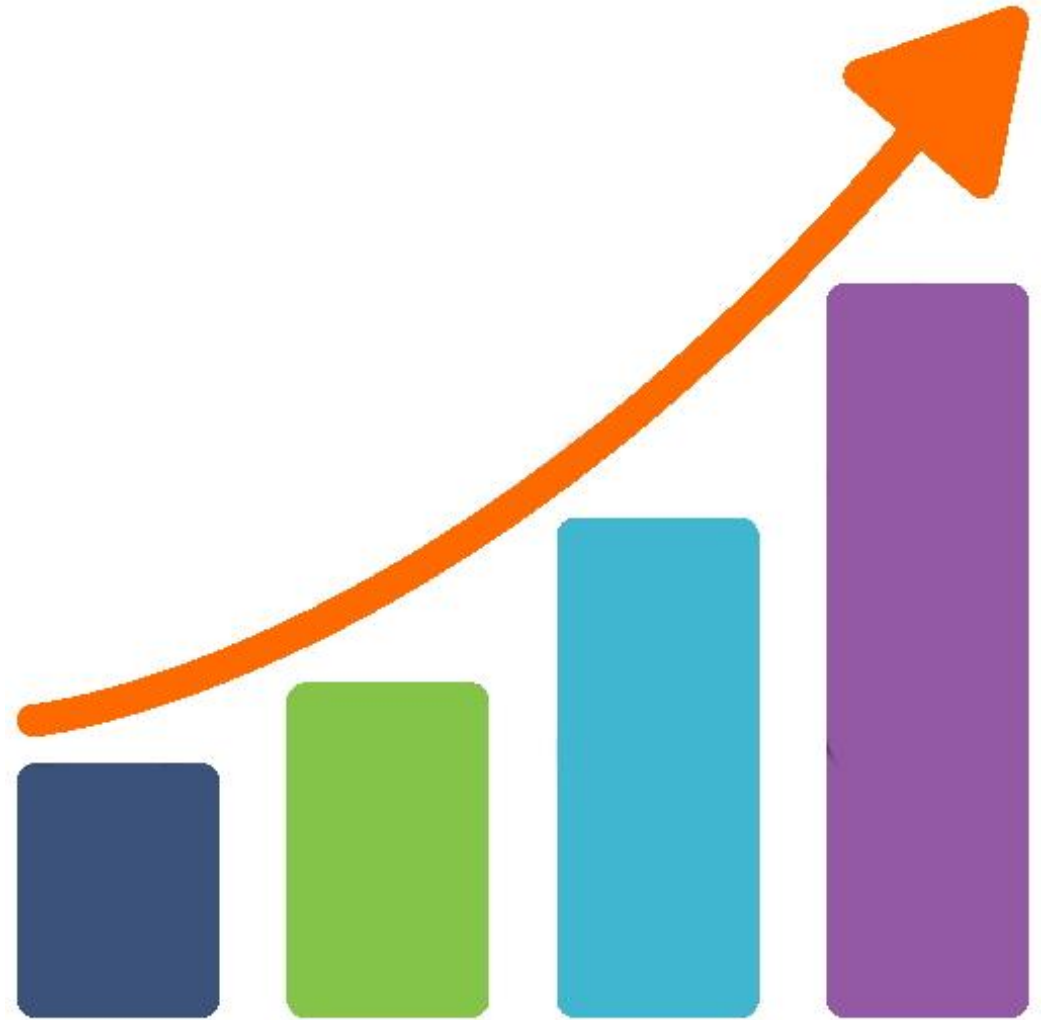


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**A  
TIME  
TO  
PROGRESS**



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"So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. Instead, **speaking** the truth in love, we will **grow** to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, **joined** and **held together** by every **supporting** ligament, grows and **builds** itself up in love, as each part does its **work**."

**Ephesians 4:11-16** (*speaking, growing, joining, holding, supporting, building, working*)

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# IT'S GOD'S TIME TO PROGRESS BY....

- *Growing in our identity as a child of God*
- *Growing in our ability to love well*
- *Growing in the stewardship of our gifts*
- *Growing in our soul through grief & loss*
- *Growing in our character & knowledge*

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# IT'S GOD'S TIME TO PROGRESS BY....

- *Growing in the stewardship of our gifts*

**Psalm 100:2** *“Serve the LORD with gladness!”*

**1 Peter 4:10** *“faithful stewards of God's grace”*

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## 1 Peter 4:10-11

*“Whatever gift each of you may have received, use it in service to one another, like good stewards dispensing the grace of God in its varied forms. Are you a speaker? Speak as if you uttered oracles of God. Do you give service? Give it as in the strength which God supplies. In all things so act that the glory may be God's through Jesus Christ; to him belong glory and power forever and ever. Amen.”*

NEB

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# IT'S GOD'S TIME TO PROGRESS BY....

- *Growing our soul through grief & loss*

**Job 1:13-2:8** *“Then he fell to the ground in worship”*

**3 John 2** *“just as your soul prospers.”*

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# IT'S GOD'S TIME TO PROGRESS BY....

- *Growing in character & knowledge*

## **2 Peter 3:18**

*“grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.”*

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# CONCLUSION: THIS IS A TIME TO PROGRESS

*“For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love.”*

**2 Peter 1:5-7**



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# HOW SHOULD YOU RESPOND TODAY?

## RESPONSIVE PRAYER

A commitment for everyone to continue following Jesus and make progress:

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***Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and relationships, in the breaking of bread, and in prayer as Acts 2:42 illustrates?***

***With the help of God, I will.***

***Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?***

***With the help of God, I will.***

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***Will you proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ?***

***With the help of God, I will.***

***Will you seek and serve Christ with everyone loving your neighbour as yourself?***

***With the help of God, I will.***

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***Will you acknowledge Christ's authority over human society, by prayer for the world and its leaders, by defending the weak, and by seeking peace and justice?***

***With the help of God, I will.***

***May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith, may you be rooted and grounded in love and develop in the gifts and fruit of the Spirit. Amen.***