Taking a Step Forward

Growth is hard. And it takes effort. We want each person at Holland Park to have a greater faith and a deeper walk with God. We are all in different places in our walk, but ask yourselves this week what you can do to just "take a step" toward greater spiritual maturity. Remember that belief plus obedience will lead to fruit.

Our reading this week is from 2 Peter 1: 3-11

> **3** His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life 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, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.
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> **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, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, 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 whoever does not have them is nearsighted and blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their past sins.
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> **10** Therefore, my brothers and sisters, make every effort to confirm your calling and election. For if you do these things, you will never stumble, **11** and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

God has given us everything we need (vs. 3) for a Godly life. What a blessing! Given this promise, why is it that we sometimes feel powerless in our walk with God?

Even though God has given us what we need, verse 5 states that we are still to "make every effort". Why do you think that God requires our efforts? How does this make us grow?

The comforting words in verse 8 tell us that if we possess certain qualities then it will keep us from "being ineffective and unproductive" in our knowledge of God. Search your heart and ask God to reveal to you what in your life has kept you from becoming effective and productive.

We all can improve. We all can grow. Don't be "nearsighted and blind" (vs. 9), but take a step toward greater maturity. God will bless your efforts.