

Nicodemus when he came to Christ was surely but a bruised reed and smoking flax. There was indeed no strength in him; but the day came when this same man openly avowed his love for Christ, and confessed Him, when Israel had crucified, and His own disciples had deserted Him. Peter in his weakness trembled at the voice of a maid, but the day came when he was willing to stretch out his hands and die a martyr for the faith. Paul too grew in grace, and this is apparent especially in the deepening of his humility, for, as Vaughan has pointed out, we find the Apostle in A.D. 58 writing to the Corinthians that he "was not meet to be called an *Apostle*." In 62 he tells the Ephesians, he is "less than the least of all *saints*," and finally, a year before his death, we find him describing himself to Timothy as the "chief of *sinners*." This was real progress, and such as we all ought to make. If, however, we do desire to grow in grace, like those I have just mentioned, let us all remember that the one great principle of spiritual progression is, ever to keep the eye fixed on the Lord Jesus Christ as the Author and Finisher of our faith.