

# **“Is Your Faith Growing?”**

## **2 Peter 1:5-11**

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### **Introduction: The Christian life is a life of faith!**

- 1) “A like precious faith” (v. 1)
- 2) “Faith in the person and work of Jesus Christ” (v.v. 1-2)
- 3) “Faith that relies on divine power” (v. 3)
- 4) “Faith that rests on God’s promises” (v. 4)
- 5) “A faith that makes us partakers of the divine nature” (v. 4)

### **\* We have all that we need for life and godliness (v. 3).**

- Peter wants us to not only have a “real faith,” he also wants us to have a “growing faith.”

### **\* “Real faith” should lead to a “growing faith.”**

- A “growing faith” demands diligence and effort on our part.
- Illustration- Paul said in Philippians 2:12- “Work out your own salvation...”
- Peter tells us how to have a “growing faith.”

## **I. The Recipe for a Growing Faith (v.v. 5-7)**

### **A. (v. 5) “And beside this...”**

### **B. (v. 5) “...giving all diligence...”**

1. Illustration- Philippians 3:13-14
2. It means “to bring every effort to a task”
3. It implies haste, eagerness and determination.

### **C. (v. 5) The exhortation “...add to your faith”**

1. Its not “have faith,” its “add to your faith”
2. The word “add” was used of individuals who underwrote the expenses of the choruses in Greek plays. The word came to mean “a generous and costly cooperation.”
3. (v. 5) “Now that you have real faith, make every effort to lavishly add to your faith.”
4. “Supply to your faith”
  - a. What do we add or supply?
5. Peter gives us the recipe (seven ingredients) or character qualities:
  - a. Virtue (v. 5)

- i. It's a moral excellence or the courage to do what is right; the courage and commitment to live a holy life in a hostile and unholy world.
  - ii. Illustration- Daniel 1- "dare to be a Daniel"
  - iii. Don't be afraid to live a pure life in a polluted world.
- b. Knowledge (v. 5)
- i. "...and to virtue, knowledge..."
  - ii. *Epi-gnosis*- a practical knowledge learned by observation and experience.
  - iii. How do we get this knowledge?
    - 1) By a personal relationship with God.
    - 2) By a fear or respect for God
    - 3) By an understanding of God found in the Bible
  - iv. The wisdom and discernment we need for life is found in God's Word.
  - v. You can't grow without God's Word.
- c. Temperance (v. 6)
- i. "...and to knowledge, temperance..."
  - ii. Its "self-control" or "self restraint"
  - iii. It is to be demonstrated in every aspect of life.
  - iv. As Christians, we should not let anything have control over our minds, emotions, bodies or wills.
  - v. Ephesians 5:18
  - vi. Galatians- "Walk in the Spirit and you will not..."
  - vii. Its saying "No" to sin.
  - viii. Charles Swindoll- "*It means saying 'No' to the second helping or the second glance.*"
- d. Patience (v. 6)
- i. "...and to temperance, patience..."
  - ii. Temperance has to do with the pleasures of life, while patience relates to the pressures and problems of life.
  - iii. Its "perseverance" or "steadfast endurance"
  - iv. It's looking to God to keep you going.
- e. Godliness (v. 6)
- i. "...and to patience, godliness..."
  - ii. Its true "piety" or "devotion to God."
  - iii. It's a person that lives their life with a practical awareness of God in every aspect of life.
  - iv. It brings the sanctifying presence of God into all of life.
  - v. Illustration- Joseph- prison, palace
- f. Brotherly kindness (v. 7)
- i. "...and to godliness, brotherly kindness..."

- ii. Greek- *Philadelphia*
  - iii. It's treating others as your brothers and sisters.
  - iv. Godliness doesn't exist in a vacuum.
  - v. Romans 12:10- "Be kindly affectionate one to another with brotherly love"
  - vi. If you love God, you should love His family.
- g. Love (v. 7)
- i. "...and to brotherly kindness, charity or love."
  - ii. Greek- *Agape*
  - iii. Its God's love through you for everyone.
  - iv. John 3:16- "For God so loved the world..."
  - v. So should we!
  - vi. Romans 13:8- "Owe no man anything but to love one another, for he that loveth another has fulfilled the Law.
  - vii. Love fulfills the Law!
    - 1) Love God
    - 2) Love your neighbor as yourself

## **CONCLUSION**

**\* It's a good thing we have God's:**

- **Power (v. 3)**
- **Promises (v. 4)**

**\* Are you adding these seven ingredients to your faith?**