

“Is Your Faith Growing?”

2 Peter 1:5-11

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I. Introduction

- A. The Christian life is a life of faith
 - 1. A “like precious faith” (v. 1)
 - 2. A faith in the person and work of Jesus Christ (vv. 1-2)
 - 3. A faith that relies on divine power (v. 3)
 - 4. A faith that rests on God’s promises (v. 4)
 - 5. A faith that makes us partakers of the divine nature (v. 4)
- B. We have all that we need for life and godliness (v. 3)
 - 1. Peter wants us to not only have a “real faith,” he wants us to have a “growing faith.”
 - a) Real faith should lead to growing faith
 - b) A growing faith demands diligence and effort on our part
 - c) Paul said, "Work out your own salvation" (Philippians 2:12)
 - 2. Peter tells us how to have a growing faith

II. The Recipe for a Growing Faith (2 Peter 1:5-7)

- A. “And beside this...” (v. 5)
- B. “Giving all diligence” (v. 5)
 - 1. (Philippians 3:13-14)
 - 2. It means "to bring every effort to a task."
 - 3. It implies haste, eagerness, and determination
- C. “Add to your faith” (v. 5)
 - 1. The exhortation
 - 2. It's not "have faith," it's "add to your faith."
 - 3. The word "add" was used by individuals who underwrote the expenses of the choruses in Greek plays. The word came to mean "a generous and costly cooperation."
 - 4. This is how I would paraphrase it:
 - a) “Now that you have real faith, make every effort to lavishly add to your faith.”
- D. Supply your faith. Peter gives us seven ingredients or character qualities to add to our faith.
 - 1. Virtue (v.5)
 - a) “Add to your faith virtue” (v. 5)

- b) It's "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."
- c) Dare to be Daniel (Daniel 1)
- d) Don't be afraid to live a pure life in a polluted world

2. Knowledge

- a) "And to virtue knowledge" (v. 5)
- b) *Epi-gnosis*- it's practical knowledge learned by observation and experience
- c) 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
 - a. The wisdom and discernment we need for life is found in God's Word.
 - b. You can't grow without God's Word

3. Temperance

- a) "And the knowledge temperance" (v. 6)
- b) Its self-control or self-restraint
 - 1) It is to be demonstrated in every aspect of life
- c) As Christians, we should not let anything have control over our minds, emotions, bodies, or wills. How?
 - 1) Walk in the Spirit (Galatians)
 - 2) It is saying "no" to sin
 - 3) *"It means saying 'no' to the second helping or the second glance."*
– Charles Swindoll.

4. Patience

- a) "And to temperance patience" (v. 6)
- 1) Temperance has to do with the pleasures of life, while patience relates to the pressures and problems of life
- 2) It's perseverance or steadfast endurance
- 3) It's looking to God to keep you going

5. Godliness

- a) "And to patience godliness" (v. 6)
- 1) It's true piety or devotion to God
- 2) It's a person who lives their life with a practical awareness of God in every aspect of life.
- 3) It brings the sanctifying presence of God into all of life
- 4) Illustration- Old Testament- Joseph (pit, prison, palace)

6. Brotherly kindness

- a) "And to godliness brotherly kindness" (v. 7)

- 1) Greek- *Philadelphia*
- 2) It's treating others as your brothers and sisters
- 3) Godliness doesn't exist in a vacuum
- 4) "Be kindly affectionate with brotherly love" (Romans 12:10)
- 5) If you love God, you should love His family, forgive them, and serve them

7. Love

- a) "And brotherly kindness, charity or love" (v. 7)
- b) It is God's love through you for everyone
- c) "God so loved the world" (John 3:16)
- d) "Owe no man anything but to love one another for he that loveth another has fulfilled the law." (Romans 13:8)
- e) Love fulfills the law
 - 1) Love God
 - 2) Love your neighbor as yourself

III. The Reasons for a Growing Faith (2 Peter 1:8-9)

- A. "You won't be barren or unfruitful" (v. 8)
 1. A growing faith brings a fruitful life
 2. (Psalm 1)
 3. "Faith without works is dead" (James)
 4. We will be useful and fruitful
 - a) "Abide in Me" (John 15)
- B. "You won't be blind and shortsighted" (v. 9a)
 1. "Blind believers" or "shortsighted saints"
 - a) Blind to their sin and can't see Heaven
 - b) False teachers- "Jesus is not coming"
- C. "You won't forget God's forgiveness" (v. 9b)
 1. You never forget the cross
 - a) It grips your mind and heart
 - b) "A saved soul but a wasted life"
 - c) No assurance

IV. The Results of a Growing Faith (2 Peter 1:10-11)

- A. Assurance (v.10a)
 1. If you are saved, then you know it
- B. Stability (v. 10b)
 1. "For if you do these things, you will never fail" (v. 10b)
 2. Peter's own life

C. Triumphant jubilation (v. 11)

1. It's not "if you go to Heaven," it's "how you go to Heaven."
2. We will be judged (Bema Seat of Christ)
 - a) "Wood, hay stubble."
 - b) "Gold, silver, precious stone"
3. Invest in your faith; it will bring eternal rewards

V. Conclusion

A. If you are a Christian, you have

1. God's power (v. 3)
 - a) Life and godliness
2. God's promises (v. 4)
 - a) Great and precious
3. Partakers of God's nature (v. 4)

B. Give all diligence and add to your faith

1. Virtue
2. Knowledge
3. Self-control
4. Patience
5. Godliness
6. Brotherly Kindness
7. Love