

Adding to your Faith

- I. Introduction:
- a. **(2 Peter 1:1-4)** “Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ: Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.”
- i. Grace (unmerited favor) and Peace (between man and God) multiplied
 1. through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord (revelation)
 - ii. Divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life (spiritual) and godliness (Scheme of Redemption/ gospel)
 1. Through the knowledge of him (revelation)
 2. Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises – through which we are given great and precious promises
 - a. **(John 17:3)** “And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.”
 - iii. By these (great and precious promises) ye might be partakers of the divine nature (righteousness of God) (forgiveness of Sins) (to become righteous as He is righteous)
 1. **(John 1:12-13)** “But as many as received him, to them gave he **power to become the sons of God**, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.”
 2. **(1 John 3:2)** “Beloved, now are **we the sons of God**, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.”
 3. **(1 John 1:7)** “But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we **have fellowship** one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.”
 - iv. Having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust
- b. Peter is telling us that through this knowledge of the gospel we have become children of God
- i. Same as what Paul says – **(Rom 1:16-17)** “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.”

1. Faith to Faith – The Faith to your personal faith
 2. Add to The Faith is forbidden
 - a. **(Gal 1:8)** “But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.”
- II. **(2 Peter 1:5)** “**And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith...**”
- a. Beside this – refers to the last idea – “for this very fact”
 - b. Giving all diligence – Bring these in by the side of the you being a child of God (to go along with us being children)
 - i. Even if we are children, we must do our part in our journey.
 - ii. **(Phil 2:12-13)** “Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, **work out your own salvation** with fear and trembling. For it is **God which worketh** in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.”
 1. God works in us by giving all that we need to accomplish the work, but we must work it.
 - a. **(2 Peter 1:3)** “According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness”
 - b. **(2 Tim 3:16-17)** “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, **thoroughly furnished unto all good works.**”
 - c. Adding to your faith is a must
 - i. Promise – **(2 Peter 1:10)** “Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:”
- III. Virtue
- a. **(2 Peter 1:5)** “...add to your faith virtue;”
 - b. Virtue – moral excellency – Manly energy answering to God’s call
 - i. Courage
 1. Joshua and the captains
 - a. **(Josh 10:24-25)** “And it came to pass, when they brought out those kings unto Joshua, that Joshua called for all the men of Israel, and said unto the captains of the men of war which went with him, Come near, put your feet upon the necks of these kings. And they came near, and put their feet upon the necks of them. And Joshua said unto them, **Fear not, nor be dismayed, be strong and of good courage:** for thus shall the **Lord do to all your enemies** against whom ye fight.

2. David

a. (1 Sam 17:46-47) “This day will the Lord deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcasses of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. And all this assembly shall know that the Lord saveth not with sword and spear: for **the battle is the Lord's**, and he will give you into our hands.”

3. (Josh 23:6) “Be ye therefore **very courageous to keep and to do all that is written in the book of the law of Moses**, that ye turn not aside there from to the right hand or to the left;”

a. Same principle applies for us today, except now we have Christ and must keep his sayings

ii. We can have courage with God

1. (Rom 8:31-33) “What shall we then say to these things? **If God be for us, who can be against us?** He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up **for us all**, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth.”

c. Self-Denial

i. (Matt 10:38) “And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me.”

ii. **Example of Paul (Phil 3:7-8)** “But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,”

IV. Knowledge

a. (2 Peter 1:5) “...and to virtue knowledge”

b. Peter's already have shown that our faith comes from knowledge

c. How we get our faith, and how we grow in faith

i. (Rom 10:17) “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

ii. (1 Peter 2:2) “As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:”

d. This knowledge is also to mean discernment

i. Knowing and making right decisions

e. Must be able to discern between right and wrong in order to grow as Christians

i. How can we add knowledge?

1. Fear God

- a. (**Prov 1:7**) “The **fear of the Lord** is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.”
 - b. Reverence – Understand that he is the source of true knowledge
 - c. (**Prov 2:6**) “For the Lord giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.”
2. Pray
- a. (**James 1:5**) “If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.”
3. Desire
- a. (**Prov 2:3-5**) “Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding; If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures; Then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God.”
 - b. (**Ps 119:16**) “I will delight myself in thy statutes: I will not forget thy word.”
 - c. (**Ps 1:1-2**) “Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he **meditate day and night.**”
4. Meditate day and night – Study!
- a. (**2 Tim 2:15**) “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”
 - i. Be diligent to understand it right
- f. What happens if we are not diligent to understand
- i. (**2 Peter 3:16**) “As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are **unlearned and unstable** wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, **unto their own destruction.**”
 - 1. They don’t get it right – error

V. Temperance

- a. (**2 Peter 1:6**) “..And to knowledge temperance”
- b. Self-Control – Self-mastery – which comes after knowledge or discernment
 - i. (**Heb 4:12**) “For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”
- c. (**1 Cor 9:24-27**) “Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. And every man that **striveth** for the **mastery is temperate** in all things. Now they do it to

obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: But I keep under my body, and **bring it into subjection**: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.”

- d. Self-mastery is a core principle to Christianity
 - i. (**Acts 24:24-25**) “And after certain days, when Felix came with his wife Drusilla, which was a Jewess, he sent for Paul, and heard him concerning the faith in Christ. And as he reasoned of **righteousness, temperance, and judgment** to come Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee.”
- e. Self-control is a must
 - i. (**Gal 5:22-25**) “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have **crucified the flesh** with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.”
 - ii. (**Rom 6:1-7**) “What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin.”
- f. Self-Control is possible by resisting temptation
 - i. (**James 4:7**) “Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you.”

VI. Patience

- a. (**2 Peter 1:6**) “...and to temperance patience”
- b. Endurance
- c. Practice of self-control and going through trials creates patience
 - i. (**James 1:2-4**) “My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, **wanting nothing.**”
- d. Patience makes our journey as Christians possible
 - i. (**Heb 12:1-2**) “Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, **let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us**, and let us run with **patience** the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before

him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

VII. Godliness

- a. (2 Peter 1:6) “...and to patience godliness”
- b. Reverence to God, to the point we will Live the Life that God accepts
- c. (1 Peter 1:16) “Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.”
- d. (Eph 5:1) “Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children;”
- e. We are to build ourselves up in godliness
 - i. (1 Tim 4:7-8) “But refuse profane and old wives' fables, and exercise thyself rather unto godliness. For bodily exercise profiteth little: but **godliness** is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.”
- f. Great gain is godliness with contentment
 - i. (1 Tim 6:6) “But godliness with contentment is great gain.”

VIII. Brotherly Kindness

- a. (2 Peter 1:7) “And to godliness brotherly kindness...”
 - i. Out of Godliness we must develop brotherly kindness for one another
- b. Jesus’ Command to his disciples
 - i. (John 13:34-35) “A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.”
 - 1. How those on the outside know that we are his disciples
- c. John teaches us
 - i. (1 John 5:1) “Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him.”
 - 1. If we love God we will love those that are his children
 - ii. (1 John 4:20) “If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?”
- d. Paul commandment
 - i. (1 Thess 4:9-10) “But as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another. And indeed ye do it toward all the brethren which are in all Macedonia: but we beseech you, brethren, that ye increase more and more;”
 - 1. God teaches us by what he did for us (John 3:16)
 - 2. (1 John 4:9-11) “In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, **we ought also to love one another.**”

- e. **(Rom 12:10)** “Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;”

IX. Love – Charity

- a. **(2 Peter 1:7)** “...and to brotherly kindness charity”
 - i. Out of Brotherly kindness we develop love for all Souls
 - 1. **(1 Thess 3:12-13)** “And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men, even as we do toward you: To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints.”
- b. **(1 Cor 13:1-8)** “Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing. Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.”
- c. If we have love for all mankind, we’ll teach them the gospel!

- i. **(Mark 16:15,16)**

X. Conclusion

- a. **(2 Peter 1:8)** “For if **these things be in you**, and **abound**, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.”
 - i. Have possession of those qualities – let them work
 - ii. You will not be unfruitful
- b. **(2 Peter 1:9)** “But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.”
 - i. Negative – Lacketh
 - 1. Blind – Forgotten that your sins were forgiven
- c. **(2 Peter 1:10)** “Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to **make your calling and election sure**: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:”
 - i. Make sure your calling and election – Add to your Faith!