

## ADDING TO YOUR FAITH

2 Pet. 1:5-11

### I. INTRODUCTION: I

1. **2** Last week we began a series of lessons with the general theme of “*growing in grace and the knowledge of the Lord.*” (2 Pet. 3:18)
  - A. These lessons are designed to help Christians grow and be strong in the Lord (1 Pet. 2:2).
  - B. We cannot remain “*babes*” in Christ (1 Cor. 14:20); even if we’ve been Christians for many years, we need to be reminded of these first principles (2 Pet. 3:1)
2. Last week we established that all Christians must put first things first (Matt. 6:33).
3. All of us want to be “secure” (e.g., relationships, shelter, finances, etc.). But, we all should seek an even more important kind of security...spiritual security!
4. Today’s lesson deals with that theme...pursuing spiritual security (2 Pet. 1:5-11).
  - A. God does His part in our salvation (**2 Pet. 1:3-4**: “*His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, 4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.*”).
  - B. We also have a role in our salvation: “*And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith...*” (v. 5)
    - (1) “*And beside*” what? Beside what God does in vs. 3 & 4.
    - (2) We must “*give all diligence*” to “*add*” some things to what God does.
      - (a) “*giving all diligence*”: “The verb occurs only here in the New Testament, and means, literally, “to bring in by the side of: adding your diligence to the divine promises.” (Vincent)
      - (b) “*add*”: “to furnish besides, i.e. fully supply, (figuratively) aid or contribute” (Strong’s)
5. **\*\*** Let’s examine those things we must “*fully supply*”; those things God requires us to “*contribute*”, “*to bring in along side of*” His “*exceeding great and precious promises.*”

### II. DISCUSSION:

1. **3** Faith:
  - A. Faith is the foundation upon which Christianity is built (Heb. 11:6).
    - (1) We live in a world where there is precious little “*faith*” (**Lk. 18:8**: “*...when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?*”).
    - (2) “Faith” in God is demeaned by most in our society:
      - (a) For example, by the atheistic, evolutionary, “high priests” of scientific orthodoxy who proclaim their intellectual superiority.
      - (b) By the “PC police” in our society who seek to enforce upon all their godless views in the name of “tolerance” (e.g., same-sex marriage, abortion).
    - (3) In such a world, we must have the faith of Abraham and “*Fear not*” knowing that God is our “*...shield, and thy exceeding great reward.*” (Gen. 15:1)
  - B. Faith is the motivation that leads us to do the works of God (2 Cor. 5:7; Jas. 2:26).

C. Our faith must grow! **2 Thess. 1:3**: “We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you all abounds toward each other.”; **2 Pet. 1:9**: “shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten...cleansed from...old sins.”

(1) Where do we acquire faith? Rom. 10:17

(2) This is why Bible study is so important to one's growth!

## 2. **4 Virtue**: We should add virtue to our faith!

A. Virtue is the idea of “moral excellence” and “moral courage”; and here refers to the courage to stand up for our faith and for what is right (just because it's the right thing to do!).

B. Some claiming to be Christians will not stand up for what the Bible teaches:

(1) There is always pressure on us, regardless of our age, to be and do like those around us (peer pressure).

(2) The world wants us to sacrifice our virtue on the altar of political correctness as it demands we accept homosexuality, drinking, gambling, drugs, pornography, fornication, immodest dress, cohabitation, divorce; but the Christian cannot participate or even condone (can be done with our silence) such immorality! **1 Thess. 5:22**: “Abstain from all appearance of evil.”; **Eph. 5:11-13**: “And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. *12 For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret.*”).

(3) Religiously the world says “Worship anyway you please at the church of your choice,” but the Christian must have the moral courage to proclaim the “one faith” and “one body” of the Bible (Eph. 4:4).

C. The Bible describes some “believers” who lacked “virtue”: **Jn. 12:42-43**: “Nevertheless even among the rulers many believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue; *43 for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.*”

D. When we display virtue and stand for what the Bible teaches we will face trials, persecutions, and ridicule (**Matt. 5:10-12**: “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. *11 'Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. 12 Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*”; **v. 44**: “But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,”).

E. Let us have the moral courage to not waver from our faith, to always stand for the truth and do what is right! We'll will never regret it! Matt. 5:12

## 3. **5 Knowledge**: We should add knowledge to our virtue!

A. Many Christians are not strong in faith (i.e., lack “moral courage”) because they lack knowledge of God's will (knowledge is power!).

(1) Lack of knowledge is spiritually deadly (Hos. 4:6; Heb. 5:11-14).

(2) How can we know right from wrong, truth from error, without knowledge of the Bible? To lack knowledge is to be easily led astray! Eph. 4:14

- (3) Remember 1 Pet. 2:2? “as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby,”

“Desire *epipotheesate* (NT:1971). The compound is intensive; “earnestly” desire. So the English Revised Version (1885), “long for.” Compare Phil 2:26.

Sincere *adolon* (NT:97) is another epithet of the milk. Literally, “without guile, unadulterated.” Compare guile in 1 Peter 2:1. Laying aside guile, desire the guileless milk, etc. Hence, the English Revised Version (1885) renders the whole passage, “Long for the spiritual milk which is without guile.” (from Vincent’s Word Studies in the New Testament, Electronic Database. Copyright (c) 1997 by Biblesoft)

- (4) We need *gnosis* (to gain information) and *epignosis* (denotes “exact or full knowledge, discernment, recognition,” and is a strengthened form of *gnosis*, expressing a fuller or a full “knowledge,” a greater participation by the “knower” in the object “known,” thus more powerfully influencing him.)! cf. 2 Pet. 1:5 and 1:8

B. To acquire knowledge we must study! 2 Tim. 2:15

C. Recall the general theme of these lessons (**2 Pet. 3:18**: “but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”).

- (1) If someone gave you a 1,000 page book and said, “If you study this book and gain its knowledge to the best of your ability I will give you \$100 billion: “What would you do?”
- (2) The Bible offers much more? **Acts 20:32**: “...I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among those who are sanctified.”; **1 Pet. 1:4-5**: “...an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”

#### 4. **6 Temperance**: We should add temperance to our knowledge!

A. Temperance is self-control.

“is rendered “temperance”; the RV marg., “self-control” is the preferable rendering, as “temperance” is now limited to one form of self-control; the various powers bestowed by God upon man are capable of abuse; the right use demands the controlling power of the will under the operation of the Spirit of God; in Acts 24:25 the word follows “righteousness,” which represents God’s claims, self-control being man’s response thereto; in 2 Peter 1:6, it follows “knowledge,” suggesting that what is learned requires to be put into practice. (Vine)

B. We need to be constantly in control of our thoughts, tongue, temper, and actions (requires focusing our energy!).

- (1) Without self-control, one will easily commit sin (Jas. 1:14).
- (2) Therefore, we must control our passions and desires so we are not drawn away (**Jas. 4:7-8**: “Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. 8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.”).

C. Even Paul had to exercise self-control! 1 Cor. 9:24-27; v. 27: “but I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.”

“I keep under’ *hupoopiazoo* (NT:5299). A feeble translation, and missing the metaphor. The word means “to strike under the eye; to give one a black eye.” It occurs elsewhere in the New Testament but once, Luke 18:5 (see note). The English Revised Version (1885): “I buffet.”

The blow of the trained boxer was the more formidable from the use of the “cestus,” consisting of ox-hide bands covered with knots and nails, and loaded with lead and iron. So Entellus throws Iris boxing-gloves into the ring, formed of seven bulls’-hides with lead and iron sewed into them (Virgil, “Aeneid,” v., 405). They were sometimes called *guitoroi*, “limb-breakers.” A most interesting account is given by Rodolfo Lanziani, “Ancient Rome in the Light of Recent Discoveries,” of the exhuming at the foundation of the Temple of the Sun, erected by Aurelian, of a sitting bronze statue of a boxer. The accompanying photograph shows the construction of the fur-lined boxing-gloves secured by thongs wound round the forearm half-way to the elbow. The gloves cover the thumb and the hand to the first finger-joints. The writer says; “The nose is swollen from the effects of the last blow received; the ears resemble a flat and shapeless piece of leather; the neck, the shoulders, the breast, are seamed with scars.... The details of the fur-lined boxing-gloves are also interesting, and one wonders how any human being, no matter how strong and powerful, could stand the blows from such weapons as these gloves, made of four or five thicknesses of leather, and fortified with brass knuckles.” (Vincent)

- D. God will not remove temptation, but will help us through it! It is our part to bear the temptation knowing it will never be more than we can handle (1 Cor. 10:13).
- E. We live in a society where instant gratification abounds; therefore, let us learn to control ourselves lest we too “become disqualified.”

5. **7 Patience:** We should add patience to our self-control!

- A. Patience deals with much more than our “temper.” It involves endurance and perseverance (**Rom. 5:3-4:** “*And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; 4 and perseverance, character; and character, hope.*”).
- B. Patience is needed to endure the problems one inevitably faces in life: **Jas. 1:2-4:** “*My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. 4 But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.*”
- C. Patience is one of those aspects of character everyone admires, but so few fully develop! **Jas. 5:11:** “*Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end intended by the Lord — that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful.*”
- D. We do not always know why suffering and afflictions come, but let us not grow impatient and blame God and turn away from Him during such times. Let us:
  - (1) Trust God, He cares! Jas. 1:13; 1 Cor. 10:13; Psalms 56:8
  - (2) Put things in the proper perspective (2 Cor. 4:16-5:1).
  - (3) Realize God can use adversity for our own good or to accomplish His purposes (Rom. 5:4 leads to hope; and 1 Pet. 1:7 makes our faith genuine!).
- E. Armed with these three thoughts let us do as the Hebrew writer exhorts us in Heb. 12:1-2! **Heb. 12:1-2:** “*Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 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 has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*”

F. It is only through the exercising of perseverance that we will inherit the promises: **Heb. 6:12:** *“that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.”*; **Jas. 5:7-8:** *“Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain. 8 You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.”*

6. **8 Godliness:** We should add godliness to our patience!

A. Godliness is piety and respect for God as exhibited in our daily life.

- (1) Vine says godliness “denotes piety which, characterized by a Godward attitude, does that which is pleasing to Him.”
- (2) Vine also says godliness indicates “reverence (i.e., for God, cvt) manifested in actions...”
- (3) Godliness is a “filter” (attitudes, mindset, behavior, thoughts, etc.): recall WWJD?

B. Day by day our society descends deeper and deeper into godlessness and immorality.

- (1) We must always remember that right and wrong are not determined by:
  - ☛ Society
  - ☛ “situation ethics”
  - ☛ “political correctness”
  - ☛ Values of our schoolmates, co-workers, neighbors or popular culture
- (2) But rather by the absolute rules given by God (**Jn. 8:31-32:** *“Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, ‘If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. 32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.’”*).
- (3) For example, lying is always wrong! Rev. 21:8 Sexual immorality is always wrong! Rev. 21:8; 1 Cor. 6:18; Heb. 13:4; etc., etc. (1 Pet. 2:13-15: *“submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord’s sake”*; Acts 5:29).

C. We always need to consider “what manner of persons ought you to be”! 2 Pet. 3:11

7. **9 Brotherly kindness:** We should add brotherly kindness to godliness!

A. Brotherly kindness is simply loving and being kind to one another: **1 Pet. 1:22:** *“Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart,”*

B. We should feel a deep nearness and kinship for others in Christ (**Eph. 2:19:** *“household of God”*; **2 Pet. 1:1:** we share the most important thing in life→*“like precious faith”*).

- (1) We will not always agree, but our love for each other will help keep us agreeable and able to work out our differences and cling tenaciously to the truth.
- (2) Paul describes the attitude we all need: **Eph. 4:1-3:** *“I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, 2 with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, 3 endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”*

C. Our love for one another should always express itself in kindness and consideration for others (**Eph. 4:32:** *“And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you.”*; Phil. 2:3-4).

- (1) Some are always unfriendly as if they were “weaned on a dill pickle”!
  - (2) Some always have a chip on their shoulder daring someone to knock it off so they can knock you out! **Rom. 12:10:** “Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other.” (NLT)
  - D. To show this love, we need to talk with one another, get to know one another personally, associate together socially (**Rom. 12:13:** “When God’s children are in need, you be the one to help them out. And get into the habit of inviting guests home for dinner or, if they need lodging, for the night.” TLB).
8. **10 Love:** We should add love (i.e., *charity* in KJV) to our brotherly kindness!
- A. Charity simply means love; there are three different Greek words for love:
    - ☛ *phileo*, tender affection
    - ☛ *eros*, sexual love
    - ☛ *agape*, love that seeks the best for others
  - B. How are we to love?
 

**Jn. 13:34:** “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.”

**Rom. 5:6-8:** “For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. 8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

**1 Cor. 13:1-7:** “Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. 2 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, but have not love, I am nothing. 3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing. 4 Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; 5 does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; 6 does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; 7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”
  - C. What are we to love?
    - (1) God (Matt. 22:37),
    - (2) Our neighbor (Matt. 22:39; Lk. 10:27ff; i.e., all men),
    - (3) Our spouse and children (Eph. 5:25; Titus 2:4),
    - (4) Our enemies (Matt. 5:44).
    - (5) “love one another” (used 13 times in NT).

**Jn. 13:34-35:** “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. 35 By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”



Vine: “the characteristic word of Christianity, and since the Spirit of revelation has used it to express ideas previously unknown, inquiry into its use, whether in Greek literature or in the Septuagint, throws but little light upon its distinctive meaning in the NT.”

- D. The *agape* kind of love is a kind of love that we must learn and in which we must grow...we must work at it!

**Col. 2:2:** “...knit together in love...”

**Col. 3:14:** “But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.”

**1 Jn. 4:8-11:** “He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. 9 In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. 10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.”

### III. CONCLUSION: !!

1. Let's look at the benefits we receive by adding these things to our faith:

**2 Pet. 1:8-11:** “For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. 10 Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; 11 for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”

2. Salvation is more than just believing and being baptized:

A. We must constantly be growing! “giving all diligence, add to your faith” (virtue, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness, love).

B. God does His part and we must do our part! He has “given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.”

3. Have you been adding these things to your faith?

A. If yes, great! Continue to do so!

B. If not, Peter says you are “shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.” (2 Pet. 1:9) You're not on the road to heaven...so why not change now!

Adapted from: *Growing in Grace and Knowledge of the Lord*, by Johnie Edwards, Titus Edwards, Johnie P. Edwards, Edwards Publishing, pp. 4-6)