

ADDING TO YOUR FAITH

2 Peter 1:1-13

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); and even if we’ve been Christians for many years, we need to be reminded of these first principles (**2 Pet. 3:1**: “*Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in both of which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder),*”)
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., food, clothing, shelter, finances, etc.); but we all should seek an even more important kind of security F-I-R-S-T: spiritual security! Matt. 6:25-34
4. Today’s lesson deals with that theme: attaining spiritual security (**** ****2 Pet. 1:1-13).
 - A. **3** God does His part in our salvation (vv. 3 & 4).
 - B. But we also have a role in our salvation: ****** “*And beside this, giving all diligence, add...*” (v. 5)
 - (1) “*And beside*” what? Beside what God does for us in vv. 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’s Word Studies in the New Testament*)

“to bear in alongside, i.e. introduce simultaneously” (Strong)
 - (b) ****** “*add*”:

“The King James Version is entirely wrong. The verb rendered ‘add’ *epichoreegeeate* (NT:2023) is derived from *choros* (NT:5525), a ‘chorus,’ such as was employed in the representation of the Greek tragedies. The verb originally means ‘to bear the expense of a chorus,’ which was done by a person selected by the state, who was obliged to defray all the expenses of training and maintenance. In the New Testament the word has lost this technical sense, and is used in the general sense of ‘supplying or providing.’” (*Vincent’s Word Studies in the New Testament*)

“to furnish besides, i.e. fully supply, (figuratively) aid or contribute” (Strong)
5. **4** Let’s examine those things we must “fully supply”; those things God requires us to “contribute”, “to bring in alongside of” His “*exceeding great and precious promises.*”

II. DISCUSSION:

1. **5** Faith:
 - A. Faith is the foundation upon which Christianity is built (Heb. 11:1, 6).
 - (1) We live in a world where there is precious little “*faith*” (**Lk. 18:8**: “*when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?*”).
 - (2) We live in a society where “*faith*” in God is demeaned, denigrated, and denounced:

- (a) 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 views in the name of “tolerance” (e.g., charges and epithets such as *homophobic*, *Islamophobic*, etc.).
 - (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. 2:22).
- C. Our faith must grow! **2 Thess. 1:3**: “...because that your faith groweth exceedingly...”
- (1) How can we imitate these brethren? How do we acquire such faith? Rom. 10:17
- Heb. 5:13-14**: “For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. 14 But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.”
- Job 23:12**: “I have not departed from the commandment of His lips; I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food.”
- (2) This is why Bible study is so important to one’s growth!
 - (3) **Example**: a lady’s admiration for Leon Odom’s Bible knowledge: “I would give 25 years of my life to have the knowledge you have.’ Brother Odom replied, “That’s exactly what I gave to have that knowledge.”

2. ** Virtue: We **MUST** “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.
- B. So many Christians will not always 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; 1 Pet. 4:4).
 - (2) The world accepts homosexuality, drinking, gambling, drugs, pornography, fornication, immodest dress; but the Christian cannot participate or even condone such immorality.

1 Thess. 5:21-22: “Test all things; hold fast what is good. 22 Abstain from every form of evil.”

 - (3) We **CAN** condone sin and evil by just remaining silent! **Eph. 5:11**: “And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.”
 - (4) The world will punish those that do not condone and celebrate sin!
 - (a) A stand against homosexuality, gay marriage, transgenderism will land you on the wrong side of the “PC police”! (e.g., woman, Jaelene Hinkle, not selected to U.S. Women’s Soccer Team for not wearing “rainbow” jersey celebrating homosexuality).
 - (b) The world thinks it can turn sin into righteousness simply w/PC language (e.g., the American Psychological Association now calls adultery “consensual non-monogamy”!]
 - (5) 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. John talks about some people that 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 you display virtue and stand for what the Bible teaches you will face trials, persecutions, problems, 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.” (cf. 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 regardless of the consequences!

3. ** Knowledge: We **MUST** “add” knowledge to our virtue!

- A. Many Christians are not strong in faith and they lack “moral courage” because they lack knowledge of God’s will (**Matt. 4:1-11**: “It is written”; 3 times!).

- (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.

The sincere milk of the word to (NT:3588) *logikon* (NT:3050) *adolon* (NT:97) *gala* (NT:1051). The King James Version has rendered *logikon* (NT:3050), “of the word;” but wrongly. It describes the quality of the milk as “spiritual or rational,” as opposed to “literal and ceremonial.” In the only other place where it occurs (Rom 12:1) it is rendered “reasonable;” which the English Revised Version (1885) gives here in margin.

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.” (Vincent’s Word Studies in the New Testament)

- (4) We need *gnosis* (an inquiry to gain information) to acquire *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 vs. 1:2, 3, 8

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

- C. Recall the general theme of these lessons (2 Pet. 3:18).

- (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) Doesn’t the Bible offer even more?

Acts 20:32: “So now, brethren, 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 all those who are sanctified.”

1 Pet. 1:4-5: “to 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. ** Temperance: We **MUST** “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’s Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words)

B. We need to be constantly in control of our thoughts, tongue, temper, and actions.

- (1) Without self-control, one will easily commit sin (**Jas. 1:14**: “But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed.”; **Jas. 1:19-20**: “So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; 20 for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.”).
- (2) Therefore, we must control our passions and desires, so we are not drawn away (**Jas. 4:7-8a**: “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**

“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’s Word Studies in the New Testament)

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**: “No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be

tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.”).

- E. We live in a society where instant gratification abounds; therefore, let us learn to control ourselves lest we “become disqualified.”

5. **6** Patience: We **MUST** “add” patience to our temperance!

- A. Patience deals with more than our “temper”; it involves spiritual endurance and perseverance:

Rom. 5:3-4: “...we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; 4 and perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 Now hope does not disappoint...”

- B. Patience is needed to endure the problems one inevitably faces in life:

Jas. 1:3-4: “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.”

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.”

- C. We do not always know why suffering and afflictions come but let us not blame God and turn away from Him during such times. Let us:

- (1) First, trust God (**Jas. 1:13**: “Let no one say when he is tempted, ‘I am tempted by God’; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone.”).
- (2) Second, put things in the proper perspective (2 Cor. 4:16-5:1).
- (3) Third, realize God can use adversity for our own good and to accomplish His purposes (**Gen. 45:8**: “So now it was not you who sent me here, but God.”).

- D. Armed with these three thoughts let us do as the Hebrew writer exhorts us in Hebrews 12:1!

Heb. 12:1: “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,”

- E. It is only through the exercising of patience that we will inherit the promises:

Heb. 6:12: “...imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.”

Heb. 10:36-39: “For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise:

37 ‘For yet a little while,
And He who is coming will come and will not tarry.
38 Now the just shall live by faith;
But if anyone draws back,
My soul has no pleasure in him.’

39 But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.”

Psa. 27:14: “Wait on the LORD; Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the LORD!”

6. ****** Godliness: We **MUST** “add” godliness to our patience!

- A. Godliness is piety and respect for God as exhibited by one’s manner of life.

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

- (1) We must always remember that right and wrong is not determined by society, it is not determined by “situation ethics”; but rather by the absolute rules given by God (Jn. 8:32, contrast with v. 31).

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.’”

- (2) Lying is always wrong! Sexual immorality is always wrong! **I Thess. 4:3-5:** “For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; 4 that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, 5 not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God;”
- (3) We must even submit to civil government! **I Pet. 2:13-15:** “Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme, 14 or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good. 15 For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men — “

C. We must always consider “what manner of persons we ought to be”! 2 Pet. 3:11 (discuss)

7. ** Brotherly kindness: We **MUST** “add” brotherly kindness to godliness!

- A. Brotherly kindness is simply loving others and being kind to others.
- B. Notice **I 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,”
- C. Why did Peter tell us to do that? **I Pet. 1:23:** “having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever;”; cf. 2 Cor. 5:17
- D. We should feel nearness and kinship for others in Christ (Eph. 2:19); we will not always agree, but our love for each other will help keep us agreeable and able to work out our differences.
- (1) Our love for one another should always express itself in kindness and consideration for others (Eph. 4:32; Phil. 2:3-4); some act unfriendly as if they were “weaned on a dill pickle”!
- Rom. 12:10:** “Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another;”
- (2) To develop and show brotherly love, we need to talk with one another, get to know one another personally, associate together socially (Rom. 12:10, 13).

8. ** Charity: We **MUST** “add” charity to our brotherly kindness!

- A. Charity simply means love; there are four different Greek words for love (*phileo*, tender affection; *eros*, sexual love; *storge*, familial love; and love that seeks the best for others--*agape*).
- 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.” cf. **1 Cor. 13:1-7**

C. What are we to love?

- (1) God (Matt. 22:37),
- (2) Our neighbor (Matt. 22:39),
- (3) Our spouse and children (Eph. 5:25; Titus 2:4),
- (4) Our enemies (Matt. 5:44).

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

III. CONCLUSION: 7

1. Let’s look at the benefits we receive by adding these “graces” 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 requires much more than just believing and being baptized.; we must constantly be growing by bringing these things along side of what God gives us (Acts 2:40; Phil. 2:12).
- 3. ****** Have you been adding these “graces” to your faith? virtue→knowledge→self-control→perseverance→godliness→brotherly kindness→love

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

B. Be honest! Which is it?

- (1) Not “giving all diligence”?

2 Pet. 1:9: “For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.”

- (2) “giving all diligence”?

2 Pet. 1:10-11: “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.”

4. Invitation

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