

Add To Your Faith

The walk of faith is an awesome journey, but it is a journey. We begin with an infant faith that starts the nurturing process. Then as we grow in grace the food of faith becomes more challenging. In order for this faith relationship with God to remain healthy we must add to our faith.

Peter tells us that God has “given us his very great and precious promises so that through them you may... escape the corruption of the world caused by evil desires.” He then gives us the formula for releasing the power of these promises into our lives.

This message is about walking the faith journey and adding the qualities of character that will keep us from being ineffective and unproductive in our faith.

2 Peter 1:3-10

3)His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. **4)Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises**, so that through **them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world** caused by evil desires.

5)For this very reason, make every effort to **add to your faith** goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; **6)and to knowledge**, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; **7)and to godliness**, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. **8)For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and**

unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

9)But if anyone does not have them, he is nearsighted and blind, and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins.

10)Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never fall, 11)and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

“For this very reason” – What was the reason?

- He has given us everything we need for life and godliness
- He has given us his very great and precious promises
- So that we may participate in the divine nature
- And escape the corruption in the world

“Make every effort to add to your faith goodness:”

1. The word, “goodness”

- Goodness: in other translations, virtue.
- “Whatever procures pre-eminent estimation for a person or thing; hence, intrinsic eminence, moral goodness, virtue.” – Vines
- Moral excellence
- Connect with Philippians 4:8 – “Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is *excellent* or praiseworthy-think about such things.”

2. The application:

- The fact that goodness, or virtue; moral excellence, must be added to our faith indicates that it does not come automatically
- Goodness must be a discipline in our life; something that we pay particular attention to

“Add to goodness knowledge:”

1. What knowledge should we add that will add to our faith?

- Romans 10:17 tells us that faith comes by hearing the word of God. It can be concluded that in order to increase our faith that we must increase our knowledge of God and his word.
- Proverbs 2:3-5 – And if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure; then you will understand the fear of the lord and find the knowledge of God.

2. Some things every believer should know:

- Redeemer Lives
Job 19:25 – I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth.
- God Works all things for Good
Romans 8:28 – And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

- We Have an Eternal House
2 Corinthians 5:1 – Now we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands.
- I know whom I have believed
2 Timothy 1:12 – That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet I am not ashamed, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day.

3. What knowledge should we consciously avoid?

- Genesis 2:16-17 – And the Lord God commanded the man, “you are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.”
- Ecclesiastes 1:18 – For with much wisdom comes much sorrow; the more knowledge, the more grief.
- Jeremiah 4:22 – My people are fools; they do not know me. They are senseless children; they have no understanding. They are skilled in doing evil; they know not how to do good.

“Add to your knowledge self-control:”

1. Requires discipline of our will

- The controlling power of the will under the operation of the spirit of God.

- Philippians 4:8 – Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy-think about such things.

2. We must first be submitted to control of the Spirit of God.

- Romans 12:1-2 – Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – which is your spiritual worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will.
- Notice these phrases:
 - Offer your bodies
 - Do not conform
 - Be transformed
- “Then” – by using the discipline of self-control, “you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is”

“Add to self-control, perseverance:”

1. The ability to hold on in difficult times

- James 1:3-4 – You know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

- This particular word, also translated patience, implies the steadfast holding to the anchor of faith through many adverse times.
- 2 Timothy 2:12 – “If we endure, we will also reign with him. If we disown him, he will also disown us.”

2. Don’t give up – EVER!

- Revelation 3:11 – I am coming soon, hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown.
- Galatians 6:9 – Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

“Add to perseverance, godliness:”

1. God-likeness

- 1 Timothy 4:7-8 – Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives’ tales; rather, train yourself to be godly. For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.

2. True salvation produces God-likeness

- Titus 1:1 – Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ for the faith of God’s elect and the knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness.

“Add to godliness, brotherly kindness:”

1. Romans 12:10 – Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.
2. Colossians 3:12 – Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

“Add to your brotherly kindness, Love:”

1. Ephesians 3:17-19
2. Colossians 3:14 – And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Formula For A Successful Faith Journey:

(v8) – For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of your Lord Jesus Christ.

Verse 10 – Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never fall.

