

Adding To Your Faith

2 Peter 1:5-11

Introduction

1. In 1 Peter 1:10-11 Peter shows us some of the great promises of God. He previously describes these promises in verses 4-5 as “*exceedingly great and precious promises.*”
2. In showing them to us Peter also limits those who are attaining these promises to those who “*have escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust*” (vs. 4).
3. It is because of this that we must each ask ourselves, “Am I among those who have escaped the corruption that is in the world? Am I faithful enough to be numbered with those who have ‘*overcome the world*’ (1 John 5:4) and who have been promised an entrance into the kingdom of God?”
4. Before we can confidently answer yes or no to these questions we must first examine the requirements needed in order to attain these “*exceedingly great and precious promises?*”
5. Let us see what Peter has to say.

Discussion

I. The Proper Faith

- A. Peter’s letter and the promises therein are addressed only to those who have a “*like precious faith*” with him (vs. 1).
 1. Any faith that is different than Peter’s does not apply.
 2. Any faith that is contrary to the gospel of Jesus Christ does not apply.
 3. Therefore Peter warns us of false prophets who will bring in destructive heresies (1 Pet. 2:1-3, 12). He warns us because those who put their faith in these false doctrines will not inherit the promises.
 4. But, when we accept the faith delivered by the apostles and approved by the God through the miracles (Heb. 2:4), then we can begin taking the necessary steps as Peter explains.
- B. Give all diligence to add to your faith
 1. True faith produces diligence. All diligence means there is no more to give.
 2. The Greek word for “*add*” here is that of continually adding to your faith. Literally “be adding to” or “brining in supply of your faith.”
 - a. Our faith ought to be such that it never ceases to increase.
 - b. Even if we have been faithful for twenty-plus years, we need to keep adding.

II. Adding To That Faith (vs. 5-7)

- A. Add to your faith, **Virtue.**
 1. What is virtue?
 - a. “Goodness, good quality of any kind, a gracious act of God, uprightness.”
 - b. How virtuous are you? How hard are you trying to overcome every weakness and shortcoming? 1 Cor. 9:27

2. Our faith is of no use to us unless we add to it a desire to better ourselves, to walk upright before God, to be “*godly in this present age*” (Tit. 2:12).
- B. Add to your virtue, **knowledge**.
1. Now that we are adding virtue to our faith, we are prepared to add knowledge onto that.
 2. Notice, before we gain more knowledge we must first have the desire to use that knowledge to make ourselves better.
 - a. Without this our knowledge is useless.
 - b. There are many people who read scripture every day of their lives, but never change. Why? Because their knowledge is not supported by virtue.
 3. 2 Pet. 1:2, 3; 3:18: We must add the knowledge of Jesus and of God. The knowledge that was revealed to us by the power of Jesus Christ. Not the futile philosophies of men.
- C. Add to your knowledge, **self-control**.
1. An arrogant and flamboyant knowledge is not what the Lord is looking for. Consider the Pharisees.
 2. Just as Paul buffeted his body in order to bring it into subjection, so we must do with our bodies and with our minds.
 3. Without self-control everything else is useless because it means we have failed to deny ourselves and to put God first.
- D. Add to your self-control, **perseverance**. (patience or endurance)
1. It is one thing to control ourselves for one moment, but how much harder is it to control ourselves for the rest of our lives.
 2. This is the meaning of perseverance: Constantly persevering, like a runner in a marathon. Push on, continue to grow, continue in self control, even when it hurts.
 3. Jesus persevered, or endured the cross; in a like manner we must persevere persecution as well (1 Pet. 2:21-25).
- E. Add to your Perseverance, **godliness**.
1. “Reverence, respect; piety towards God, godliness” (Thayer).
 2. Many people try to live better for the sake of pleasing men.
 3. Our desire, however, must be that of wanting to be imitators of God in character (Eph. 5:1).
 4. This word not only requires that we live the way we should, but that our motives also reflect the attitude of God (1 Cor. 1:10).
- F. Add to your godliness, **brotherly kindness**.
1. So often we come across Christian who tend to avoid other people because “they don’t do things the way I like,” or “they don’t make me feel very comfortable.”
 2. With this particular command shyness and fear, innocent as they may be, can be a huge stumbling block. “*There is no fear in love*” (1 John 4:18).
 3. Our knowledge, self-control and virtue ought to teach us to show brother kindness no matter what the circumstances.

- G. Add to your brotherly kindness, **Love**.
1. This is *agape*: to have a sincere interest in the welfare of others (Rom. 10:1-3).
 2. As we grow and mature in other aspects of our faith, our love for God, His people and all men must also grow.
 3. The longer we are Christians the more we ought to be willing to serve others at our own expense (1 John 3:16-17).

III. Putting These Things to Heart

- A. These are the requirements we must strive for if we are going to attain the promises.
1. As Peter says in verses 8, 10-11.
 2. However, if we fail to strive for these things, Peter warns us in verse 9, “*For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.*”
 3. Failure to grow and add to our faith is an indication that we forgot why we were redeemed by the blood of Christ in the first place!
 - a. To have our sins forgiven, yes...
 - b. But then, that we might present ourselves as a living sacrifice (Rom. 12:1).
- B. We will never stumble – 2 Pet. 1:10
1. This does not mean we will never sin (1 John 1:8, 10)
 2. Stumble in the Greek means to “fall into misery, become wretched; the loss of salvation.”
 3. We will never stumble so as to fall short of our ultimate salvation!
 4. Again, this is true ONLY!! If we are giving “*ALL diligence*” to add to our faith and grow in grace and knowledge. If we become lazy then we will fail.
- C. An entrance into the “everlasting kingdom” will be abundantly supplied – 2 Peter. 1:11
1. This “everlasting kingdom” is the “heavenly kingdom” referred to by Paul in 2 Tim. 4:18.
 2. We will not have barely squeezed in the door. Rather our entrance will be with a mighty victory, thus we shall enter triumphantly!!

Conclusion

1. With these promises in mind we must ask ourselves, do I have this like precious faith?
2. The faith that Peter speaks of is revealed by him through the Holy Spirit in Acts 2:25-38. Are you willing to make this your faith?
3. If it is your desire to attain the great promises of God, you can do so now by obeying the command of the Lord, “*repent and be baptized for the forgiveness of your sins.*”

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