

GIVING ALL DILIGENCE

2 PETER 1

Text: 2 Peter 1:5

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⁵And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;

Introduction:

Peter's readers were living in an environment that was extremely hostile to the cause of Christ. Peter knew that if they were to stand under the pressure and have an influence in their day they would have to grow strong spiritually. And so Peter gives instruction that not only would fortify their faith but will help us become a Growing Faith as well.

The first thing we find here that brings about Growing Faith is found here in our text: Giving or practicing all diligence.

1. THE RESPONSIBILITY OF BEING DILIGENT

You'll notice that Peter gave instruction "Add to your faith," then he names seven things we are to add or build upon.

Understand in order to add to your faith, you must have saving faith.

These who he is speaking to had saving faith.

2 Peter 1:1

¹ 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:

Peter speaks of “precious faith”

He is not speaking of:

- False Faith
- Phony Faith
- Fruitless Faith

Peter describes this faith as precious faith because of:

A. The Object of Our Faith

1. The object of the Christians faith is a person and not a possession. Jesus Christ.

John 3:16

¹⁶ For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

B. The Outcome of Faith

2 Corinthians 5:17

¹⁷ Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

The matter of adding to our faith, seeing our faith grow and strengthened and enriched demands diligence.

The word diligence refers to the earnest, zealous, exertion of one's self.

No one's faith grows automatically. Diligence must be given to see this happen.

2. RESOURCE TO BE DILIGENT

Can we have growing faith? Certainly we can because of our resources.

2 Peter 1:3

³ 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:

A. God's Power – "his divine power"

1. His power is great

Nahum 1:3

3 The LORD is slow to anger, and great in power, and will not at all acquit the wicked: the LORD hath his way in the whirlwind and in the storm, and the clouds are the dust of his feet.

2. His power is strong

Psalms 89:13

¹³ Thou hast a mighty arm: strong is thy hand, *and* high is thy right hand.

3. His power is glorious

Exodus 15:6

⁶ Thy right hand, O LORD, is become glorious in power: thy right hand, O LORD, hath dashed in pieces the enemy.

4. His power is incomparable

Exodus 15:11-12

¹¹ Who *is* like unto thee, O LORD, among the gods? who *is* like thee, glorious in holiness, fearful *in* praises, doing wonders? ¹² Thou stretchedst out thy right hand, the earth swallowed them.

Deuteronomy 3:24

²⁴ O Lord GOD, thou hast begun to shew thy servant thy greatness, and thy mighty hand: for what God *is there* in heaven or in earth, that can do according to thy works, and according to thy might?

5. His power is unsearchable

Job 5:8-9

⁸ I would seek unto God, and unto God would I commit my cause: ⁹ Which doeth great things and unsearchable; marvellous things without number:

6. His power is incomprehensible

Job 26:14

¹⁴ Lo, these *are* parts of his ways: but how little a portion is heard of him? but the thunder of his power who can understand?

B. God's Promises – “exceeding great and precious promises”

2 Peter 1:4

⁴ 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 have a book in my library entitled “All the Promises of the Bible,” and the author states that there are 7487 promises made to mankind by God.

Certainly these promises are great and precious.

1. They are great because of their source.

2. They are precious because of their significance.

Note some of these promises:

- Eternal life

John 3:16

¹⁶ For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

- Strength when weary

Isaiah 40:28-31

²⁸ Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, *that* the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? *there is* no searching of his understanding. ²⁹ He giveth power to the faint; and to *them that have* no might he increaseth strength. ³⁰ Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: ³¹ But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew *their* strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; *and* they shall walk, and not faint.

- Reward for obedience

Revelation 22:12

¹² And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward *is* with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

- Comfort for trials of life

2 Corinthians 1:3-5

³ Blessed *be* God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; ⁴ Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God. ⁵ For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ.

We can depend on God's promises.

3. REWARD FOR BEING DILIGENT

2 Peter 1:8-10

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. 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. ¹⁰ Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:

It's worth the price to add to your faith with diligence.

The rewards are:

A. We Will Be Equipped

2 Peter 1:8

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.

B. We Will Be Enlightened

2 Peter 1:9

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.

C. We Will Be Established

2 Peter 1:10-11

¹⁰ Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: ¹¹ For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.