

Series: Add To Your Faith

GIVING ALL DILIGENCE

2 PETER 1:5-8

Text: 2 Peter 1:5-8

2 Peter 1:5-8

⁵ *And beside this, **giving all diligence**, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;* ⁶ *And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;* ⁷ *And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.* 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.*

Introduction:

1. EFFORT OF ADDING TO OUR FAITH

2 Peter 1:5

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

Note the effort involved – “all diligence.”

Peter repeats this idea in verse 10.

2 Peter 1:10

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

Note:

A. The Responsibility of Being Diligent

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

Without diligence there will be little growth.

An individual must want to grow in the faith if they are going to do much growing.

Sadly many believers seem uninterested in spiritual growth.

Remember the success of growing has a lot to do with the desire for growing.

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

B. The Resources 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:

- His Power Saves

1 Corinthians 1:17-18

¹⁷ For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect. ¹⁸ For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.

Acts 4:11-12

¹¹ This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. ¹² Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

Romans 1:16

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

- His Power Strengthens

Philippians 4:13

¹³ *I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.*

Colossians 1:9-14

⁹ *For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;* ¹⁰ *That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;* ¹¹ *Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;* ¹² *Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:* ¹³ *Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:* ¹⁴ *In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:*

Ephesians 6:10

¹⁰ *Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.*

- His Power Secures

2 Timothy 4:18

¹⁸ *And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and **will preserve me** unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.*

1 Peter 1:3-5

³ *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,* ⁴ *To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,* ⁵ ***Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation*** ready to be revealed in the last time.

C. The 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:*

The rewards are:

- We will be equipped (vs. 8)

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.

- We will be enlightened (vs. 9)

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.

- We will be established (vs. 10-11)

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.

We have seen the need of diligence of adding to our faith, notice secondly the:

2. ELEMENTS TO BE ADDED TO OUR FAITH

God provides for us a list of seven things that come from the first thing – faith.

2 Peter 1:5-7

⁵ And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; ⁶ And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; ⁷ And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.

These things cannot produce faith. The Bible does not say “add faith”, it says “add to your faith.”

Let’s look briefly at these things that we are to add to our faith.

This biblical list is given to us with a specific order

A. Virtue

The first thing we add to our faith is virtue.

The word virtue speaks of courage and valor.

This grows out of faith.

Without faith, you will not have the courage and valor to speak and live for the Lord.

The second element is:

B. Knowledge

Notice John 7:17

John 7:17

¹⁷ *If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.*

The guarantee for knowing what God wants us to know is having a heart that is willing to do what God wants us to do.

We cannot add knowledge unless we are obedient to the Lord.

The Christians who know God and His Word are those who are obedient to His will.

The third element is:

C. Temperance

The Bible says we should add to knowledge temperance.

We like to think of temperance as self-control. “Self-control” is not the best expression, because we cannot control ourselves.

Temperance is being yielded to Christ's control.

In 1 Corinthians 9:25-27 Paul deals with the matter of a temperate life.

1 Corinthians 9:25-27

²⁵ And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. ²⁶ I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: ²⁷ But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

By God's grace, he sought to live his life under the Lord's control.

It is impossible to live the Christian life without Christ.

The fourth element is:

D. Patience

God says to add patience to temperance.

Patience is waiting on God.

Note Psalms 37:7

Psalm 37:7

⁷ Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass.

Patience is an exercise of faith.

Patience is believing the Lord, knowing that God will come through – not on our timetable, but on His.

The fifth element is:

E. Godliness

Godliness is communing with Christ. Being with Christ will create greater desire to be with Him. There is a movement of breakthrough when duty becomes delight.

The sixth element is:

F. Brotherly Kindness

A Christian is to love one another. We are to express the love of Christ to others in the family of God.

The seventh element is:

G. Charity

Charity is a word that speaks of God's love.

We are to love not only other Christians, but we are to love everyone.

Close:

We know that we are to add to our faith and we are to be diligent in doing so.

We know the things that we are to add to our faith.

We know what these things can do for us.

The question is this – Are these things present in our lives.