

Challenging Our Faith – Grow In Our Faith II Pet. 1:5-11

Thesis: To challenge one another to grow in our faith

Introduction:

- A. As Christians, we must constantly evaluate ourselves to see where we are in our faith.
 - 1. If we are the same this year as we were last year, then we have failed to grow.
 - 2. The challenge that we face is to grow in our faith and our work for the Lord.
- B. Today, we will notice what Peter says about growing in our faith.

I. We must continually add to our faith (1:5-7).

A. We must be diligent in the growth of our faith (1:5).

- 1. Peter says that we must give all diligence to the adding of our faith.
 - a. It is not an easy process.
 - b. It takes hard work on our part if we are going to grow.
- 2. The idea of giving all diligence is that we must work at adding to our faith.
 - a. Many people give up too quickly when they do not see spiritual growth like they think they should see.
 - b. This is why many people do not fulfill their New Year's resolutions.
 - c. They do not see the results quickly enough.
- 3. If we are going to please God, we must be diligent in our work for Him.
 - a. **II Tim. 2:15** - *Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*
 - b. **II Pet. 3:14** - Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, *be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless;*
 - c. **Neh. 4:6** - So we built the wall, and the entire wall was joined together up to half its height, *for the people had a mind to work.*
- 4. Nothing in this world comes easy.
 - a. The same is true when it comes to our spiritual growth.
 - b. We will not grow overnight.
 - c. We must be diligent when it comes to spiritual growth.

B. Peter tells us what we need to add to our faith (1:5-7).

- 1. Notice the seven things that Peter tells us to add to our faith.
 - a. **Virtue**
 - 1) We must be a strong, moral individual.
 - 2) We must live a virtuous life.

- b. **Knowledge**
 - 1) We must grow in our knowledge of the word of God.
 - 2) We must study His word continuously.
 - c. **Self-control**
 - 1) We must be able to control our thoughts and our actions.
 - 2) We cannot allow outside forces to determine our actions.
 - d. **Perseverance**
 - 1) We must be patient with one another just as God is patient with us.
 - 2) We must have the patience of Job.
 - e. **Godliness**
 - 1) We must live a holy and righteous life.
 - 2) Our life must conform to the image of God.
 - f. **Brotherly Kindness**
 - 1) We must go about doing good to one another.
 - 2) We should be a servant to one another.
 - g. **Love**
 - 1) We must have love for one another and a greater love for God and the salvation that we have in Him.
 - 2) **Col. 3:14** - But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.
2. The point that Peter is making is that we need to grow in our faith.
- a. The Christian life is a process that we must be active in.
 - b. Because Peter tells us what to add to our faith, there is no excuse for not adding these things.**

II. Peter gives us a comparison between the one who grows in his faith and the one who does not (1:8-9).

A. If we have grown in our faith, we “will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ” (1:8).

- 1. In order to grow in our faith, we must possess these qualities and they must abound in us.
 - a. The reason we add these qualities to our faith is so that they can work in us.
 - b. These characteristics must abound in us.
 - 1) We must be active in building our faith.
 - 2) These characteristics must be active in our lives.
- 2. If these things do abound, we will be fruitful “in the knowledge of our Lord and Jesus Christ.”
 - a. The idea of being fruitful is that we will be profitable for Christ.
 - b. We will do what we can to further the kingdom of God while we are on this earth.
 - c. Of course, this can only be done if we understand our proper role in the kingdom of heaven.

- 1) **Jn. 15:1-5** (Analogy of our role as a Christian) - **I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. {2} Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. {3} You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. {4} Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. {5} I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.**
- 2) The only way to bear fruit is if we abide in Christ.
- 3) If we abide in Christ, then these characteristics (**1:5-7**) will abound in our lives.

3. If we grow in our faith, we will be fruitful for Christ.

B. One who does not grow in their faith is “shortsighted, even to blindness” (1:9**).**

1. The Bible never refers to spiritual blindness in a positive manner.
 - a. The KJV says that he “**is blind, and cannot see afar off.**”
 - b. The Christian who does not grow is one who cannot see.
 - c. Blindness, especially spiritual or figurative blindness, is never spoken of as something that is good.
 - 1) **II Cor. 4:3-4** - **But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, {4} whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.**
 - 2) **Eph. 4:17-19** - **This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, {18} having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardening of their heart; {19} who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.**
 - d. Those that have not grown in their faith are compared to those who are spiritually blind.
2. The one who does not grow in their faith does not know that they were forgiven.
 - a. One of the most important parts about our faith is the knowledge that our sins are forgiven.
 - b. If we do not grow in our faith, then we have forgotten this basic fact.

III. If we grow in our faith, we will be prepared to receive the eternal kingdom of Christ (1:10-11).

A. It is by adding to our faith that we will make our calling and election sure (1:10).

1. The idea is not that we will earn heaven by growing in our faith.
2. It is the idea that we are doing what God wants us to do.
3. When we do what He wants us to do, we will make our eternal salvation sure.
 - a. We know if we do the will of God, we will go to heaven (thereby making our calling and election sure).
 - b. II Pet. 3:9 - The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.
 - c. Mt. 7:21 - "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven."
4. It is when we do the will of God that our calling and election is made sure.

B. By growing in our faith, we are preparing ourselves for "the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (1:11).

1. The entrance that we will have will be abundant.
2. We will not make it to heaven by luck.
3. The door to heaven will be opened abundantly to us.
4. We can know, beyond a shadow of the doubt, that we are saved.

Conclusion:

Today, have you grown in your faith?

While we were all babes in Christ at one point, we must grow towards maturity.