

II Peter – The Need to Grow II Pet. 1:5-11

Thesis: To encourage one another to grow in our faith and receive the promised reward.

Introduction:

As Peter begins his second epistle to the brethren, he instructs them on the importance of growth as a Christian.

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

A. There are seven things that we are to add to our faith.

1. Virtue

- a. Virtue is moral excellence.
- b. **Phil. 4:8** - Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy - meditate on these things.
- c. The Christian must be a good, moral person (remember, this is the first thing that we are to put on as we develop our faith).

2. Knowledge

- a. Knowledge is a key word for Peter throughout this epistle.
- b. **II Pet. 3:18** - but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
- c. **II Tim. 2:15** - Be diligent (KJV – “study”) to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.
- d. We have to have a knowledge of the word of God; and a knowledge of the God of the word.

3. Self-control

- a. “Self-control” means to control ones actions.
- b. **Rom. 12:1** - I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.
- c. Numerous examples could be mentioned of those that had self-control.
 - 1) Joseph with Potiphar’s wife (**Gen. 39**).
 - 2) David for not killing Saul when he had the opportunity (**I Sam. 24 and 26**).

4. Perseverance

- a. Perseverance is to patiently endure (endurance).
- b. **Heb. 12:1** - Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

- c. **Rom. 2:7** - eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality;
- d. We have many examples of those who had great patience.
 - 1) Perhaps the best example is Job.
 - 2) Job endured great sufferings and remained faithful to God in all things.

5. Godliness

- a. Godliness is a state of mind that we possess (attitude).
- b. **I Tim. 4:7-8** - But reject profane and old wives' fables, and exercise yourself toward godliness. {8} For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come.
- c. **I Pet. 1:15-16** - but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, {16} because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy."

6. Brotherly Kindness

- a. Brotherly kindness literally means "brotherly love" (Greek: philadelphia).
- b. **Rom. 12:10** - Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another;
- c. The idea of true brotherly love is seen in the Parable of the Good Samaritan (**Lk. 10:25-37**).

7. Love

- a. This is different from brotherly love.
 - b. The Greek word here is "agape," the sacrificial love.
 - c. This is the kind of love that God has for us.
 - 1) **Jn. 15:13** - Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.
 - 2) **Rom. 5:8** - But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
 - d. This is the kind of love that we should have for each other.
 - 1) **Col. 3:14** - But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.
 - 2) **I Pet. 4:8** - And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "love will cover a multitude of sins."
- B. It is up to each of us, as Christians, to make sure that we are growing by adding these things to our faith.
- 1. It takes a great deal of effort on our part to make sure that we are growing in our faith.
 - 2. It does not happen by accident; we must work at it.

There are two reasons listed as to why we should grow in our faith.

II. It is only when we add these things to our faith that we will be fruitful in the kingdom of God (1:8-9).

- A. It is only when one adds these things to their faith that they can be fruitful and productive “in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.”
 - 1. If one does not grow, he cannot be productive for the Lord.
 - 2. There are not too many things that are worse than one who has been a Christian for several years, but has not grown.
- B. Peter gives a vivid description of the one who does not grow (1:9).
 - 1. He says that they are “shortsighted, even to blindness”
 - 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 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 who have not grown in their faith are compared to those who are spiritually blind.
 - 2. Also, this one “has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.”
 - a. The old saying “use it or lose it” is true when it comes to our faith.
 - b. If we do not grow in it, we will not have it.

III. It is only when we add these things to our faith that we will be ready to receive that heavenly home (1:10-11).

- A. We are to make our “call and election sure” (1:10).
 - 1. Peter also tells us how to do this.
 - 2. We do it by adding these things to our faith.
- B. Peter makes it very plain to us that if we add these things to our faith, we will find ourselves in heaven (1:11).
 - 1. We can know, beyond the shadow of a doubt, that we are going to heaven.
 - 2. It is an abundant entrance that we will have.

Conclusion: