

## STAYING FAITHFUL TO GOD

2 Peter 1:5-11

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**<sup>5</sup> Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge**"

Peter's recipe for spiritual growth in Christ begins with faith.

- "And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him." (Hebrews 11:6)
- "Therefore, many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name." (John 20:30-31)

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**<sup>5</sup> Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge**"

We must add moral excellence by living a righteous life.

- "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life." (Galatians 6:7-8)
- "Do not be deceived: 'Bad company corrupts good morals.' Become sober-minded as you ought, and stop sinning; for some have no knowledge of God. I speak this to your shame." (1 Corinthians 15:33-34)

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**<sup>5</sup> Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge**"

We must add knowledge by continuing in His word.

- "This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth." (1 Timothy 2:3-4)
- "So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, 'If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.'" (John 8:31-32)

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**<sup>6</sup> and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness**"

We must add self-control by denying ungodliness.

- "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires." (Galatians 5:22-24)
- "Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable." (1 Corinthians 9:25) (See also Matthew 16:24; James 1:13-15)

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**<sup>6</sup> and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness**"

We must add perseverance [persistence, endurance] through patience.

- "Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him." (James 1:12)
- "For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart." (Hebrews 12:3) (See also Revelation 2:2-3)

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**<sup>16</sup> and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness"**

We must add godliness by learning how to be more like God.

- *"But godliness actually is a means of great gain when accompanied by contentment. For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either. If we have food and covering, with these we shall be content. But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. But flee from these things, you man of God, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness." (1 Timothy 6:6-11) (See also Titus 2:11-13)*

## STAYING FAITHFUL TO GOD

**<sup>17</sup> and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love."**

We must add brotherly kindness by denying selfishness and practicing compassion.

- *"So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you." (Colossians 3:12-13)*
- *"Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you." (Ephesians 4:31-32)*

## STAYING FAITHFUL TO GOD

**<sup>17</sup> and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love."**

We must add love by increasing our love toward God and toward one another.

- *"One of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, 'Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?' And He said to him, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and foremost commandment. The second is like it, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets.'" (Matthew 22:35-40)*

## STAYING FAITHFUL TO GOD

**<sup>17</sup> and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love."**

We must add love by increasing our knowledge of God. This can only be done by studying His word and sharing with others of like precious faith.

- *"Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love." (1 John 4:7-8)*

## STAYING FAITHFUL TO GOD

**<sup>17</sup> and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love."**

We must add love by practicing love's attributes toward one another.

- *"If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing. Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails ..." (1 Corinthians 13:1-8a)*

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**<sup>18</sup> For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."**

"Yours and are increasing" means constant growth, always getting stronger.

"Neither useless or unfruitful" means useful and fruitful in the true knowledge of Christ.

- *"... but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence; and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ will be put to shame." (1 Peter 3:15-16) (See also 2 Corinthians 2:14-15)*

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<sup>9</sup> ***For he who lacks these qualities is blind or short-sighted, having forgotten his purification from his former sins.***

We must not forget that God's grace saved us from our sins through our faith. (See Ephesians 2:8-10)

- "For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world by the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and are overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first. For it would be better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn away from the holy commandment handed on to them. It has happened to them according to the true proverb, 'A dog returns to its own vomit,' and, 'A sow, after washing, returns to wallowing in the mire.'" (2 Peter 2:20-22) (See also Hebrews 10:26-31)

## STAYING FAITHFUL TO GOD

<sup>10</sup> ***Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble***

We must remain diligent to act as children of God, according to His word.

- "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth."  
(2 Timothy 2:15)

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<sup>10</sup> ***Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble***

It's a guarantee! "As long as you practice these things, you will never stumble."

Knowing this to be a true statement, we need to ask ourselves when we do stumble, "Which of these things have I not been practicing?" Then, we need to make the corrections that are needed to get back on the path that leads to Heaven.

- "Those who love Your law have great peace, And nothing causes them to stumble." (Psalm 119:165) (See also Proverbs 3:5-6, 19-23; James 3:2-6)

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<sup>11</sup> ***for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you.***

Salvation awaits the faithful.

- "The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed, and will bring me safely to His heavenly kingdom; to Him be the glory forever and ever. Amen." (2 Timothy 4:18)
- "For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord." (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17)

## GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION

- **Hear the word** (Romans 10:12-17; James 1:21)
- **Believe the gospel** (Hebrews 11:6; John 8:24)
- **Repent of sins** (Luke 3:13; Acts 17:30-31)
- **Confess Jesus Christ** (Romans 10:10; Matthew 10:32-33)
- **Be Baptized** (Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38)
- **Remain Obedient** (1 Corinthians 15:1-2, Revelation 2:10)