



Adding to Your Faith ^{part 1}

The Importance of Adding to Your Faith

1:1 Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who through the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ have received a faith as precious as ours: 2 Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. 3 His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. 4 Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires. **5 For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith** goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; 6 and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; 7 and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. 8 For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 But if anyone does not have them, he is nearsighted and blind, and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins. 10 Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never fall, 11 and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. 12 So I will always remind you of these things, even though you know them and are firmly established in the truth you now have. 13 I think it is right to refresh your memory as long as I live in the tent of this body, 14 because I know that I will soon put it aside, as our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me. 15 And I will make every effort to see that after my departure you will always be able to remember these things. (NIV)

1. Triple Check Your Reasons (v.5a)

A. Don't Even Think About These...

B. Get Motivated About These...

2. Ponder The Price Tag (v.5b)

Application Questions

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's message. It is recommended that you take time this week to write out your response to each of these questions. This will help to drive home the point of today's message and will help you to apply the principles to your life situation.

1. There has been a lot of confusion throughout the centuries regarding the relationship that exists between “faith” and “works”. According to the Bible we are called to relinquish our confidence in ourselves and place our complete trust in Christ to forgive us and save us from the penalty of our sins (i.e. “faith”). But where do good deeds fit in to the equation? Almost all religions teach that we must bring to this deal some amount of “good works” before we can ever think that God will forgive us of our “bad works”. In other words, we get to go to heaven because we do good things. That may sound reasonable, but it is dead wrong! Based on what we have studied so far in 2 Peter explain why that is so wrong.

One sign that shows that people struggle with the concept of salvation by grace through faith is seen when news breaks of a “bad person” who has a “deathbed conversion” or when some old convicted felon embraces a “jailhouse Christianity”. People will scoff at this, revealing that they truly believe that people go to heaven because they are good. Have you ever found yourself feeling that such last minute conversions weren't right? Read Luke 23:43 in its context. How do those words and that story put grace in perspective for you?

2. If we are saved by God's grace apart from any contribution of our own, then how can we say that it is biblical to “add to our faith” (2Pt.1:5)?

The trend in many otherwise solid evangelical churches has been to not stress “good works” for the sake of preserving “the purity of grace”. Why do you think this is ultimately damaging to the gospel and to the people of God? (2 Peter 1:5-15 has a lot to say on this one.)

3. When it comes to good works, another popular view in many circles has been to just “let go and let God”. Why is this a wrong approach in light of the first half of 2 Peter 1:5? What happens in your Christian life when you “let go” and forget about “working” at doing right and growing up?
4. Review the benefits of (i.e. “reasons for”) exerting energy and effort in “adding to your faith” which were discussed in the message (1, B). Which of these motivates you the most? Why?