



Adding to Your Faith ^{part 3}

Knowledge That Makes a Difference

1:3 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. Work to _____

2. Always put _____

3. Bask in the _____

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 is a popular mindset among many Christians that is called "fideism". Simply put, the fideistic folks say, "I believe, don't confuse me with knowledge". There is a subtle rejection of learning, education, reason, knowledge, and logic in preference to "that simple, ol' time religion". Why do you think it is so popular for so many Christians to see "faith" and "knowledge" as enemies?

Our passage in 2 Peter 1:5 clearly calls all Christians to "make every effort to add" *knowledge* to their faith. How are you doing at this? Can you look back at other times in your Christian life when you were making a "better effort" or were being more effective at "adding knowledge" to your faith? Explain.

What can you do to be a better learner?

2. Describe a situation when you have learned a lot about a particular issue in the Christian life and failed to put it into practice. How did all the learning make the failure more severe?
3. There are many people in many churches learning a lot about Christ, their lives are even affected positively by their learning, but they have never made the most important application of all—they have never repented of their sins and placed their trust in Christ for their salvation. Are you sure that you are not in that group of churchgoers? If not, pray for those who are!

What else would God have you do to help those in that deceptive situation?

4. When we apply what we learn God is faithful to bless us. Be specific in describing how God has recently multiplied the benefits of learning something new and putting it to work in your life?