



Adding to Your Faith ^{part 9}

Why We Struggle With This List

1:5b ...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. ...Because We Are _____

A. *Be Sure You are* _____

B. *Make 'The List'* _____

2. ...Because We _____

A. *Don't* _____

B. *Go to* _____

C. *Do Your* _____

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 apply the principles to your life situation.

1. Describe the current state of your spiritual growth?
2. The Bible is emphatic about "real faith" producing "real fruit" (Jms.2:17ff.; 1Jn.2:3-6; 3:7ff. etc.) What do you see in your life that gives evidence that you are a "real Christian"? List "fruit" that goes beyond the things that many people do without any real relationship with Jesus Christ (e.g.: "going to church"; "knowing a lot about God"; "being nice"), instead seek to identify things that are clearly the evidence of God's transforming work in your life. Make sure to include fruit that is being borne now in your life and not just months or years ago.

What from your "fruit list" reflects the presence of the seven virtues from 2 Peter 1:5-7 (goodness, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly affection, and love)?

If you are not able to find real spiritual fruit in your life be sure that your profession of faith is more than just a declaration. Absence of real fruit is a sure sign that you have not genuinely repented of your sin and placed your trust in Jesus Christ. If you haven't done so, do so now. Write out a prayer that reflects your sincere decision to repent of your sins and place your faith in Jesus Christ as the sole provision for your sinfulness.

3. Think creatively and consider how you might be continually reminded of these seven Christian virtues and your responsibility to add them to your faith.
4. Think back through the *Adding to Your Faith* series and describe how God has changed your life through these studies.

What will you do to insure that the application of these messages doesn't end with the series?

