

ARISE AND BUILD

Neh. 2:20

“...we his servants will arise and build...”

“Arise and Build Your Faith”

2 Pet. 1:1-4

2 Pet. 1:1 Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, **to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ:**

2 Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,

3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that *pertain* unto life and godliness, **through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:**

4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be **partakers of the divine nature**, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

Last week we began a new series from 2 Peter – *“Arise and Build Your Faith.”*

Faith in Christ is the beginning, but, according to the Holy Spirit’s moving upon the Apostle, faith needs to grow, and believers are commanded to develop a growing faith:

2 Pet. 1:5 And beside this, **giving all diligence, add to your faith...**”

Our text prepares us for this command by giving us “the secret of commencing well.” We began looking at the principle last week and will continue looking at it this morning. Let’s begin by reviewing the outline from last week.

I. FAITH'S CONVICTIONS, 1:1-21

A. As to the walk with God, 1:1-15

1. The secret of commencing well, 1:1-4

a. How to be saved, 1:1-3b

i. The author, 1:1a-c

(1) His signature, 1:1a “Simon Peter...”

(2) His status, 1:1b-c

(a) His lowly status, 1:1b “...a servant...”

(b) His lofty status, 1:1c “...and an apostle of Jesus Christ...”

ii. The audience, 1:1d—3b

(1) Christians and their beliefs, 1:1d “...to them that have obtained **like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ:**”

(a) The worth to the believer – “...to them that have **obtained like precious** faith with us...”

- ❖ One must first have faith before adding to it.
- ❖ Faith must be “obtained” at a point in time – we are not born with it.
- ❖ An assurance of faith is the foundation upon which to build a growing faith.
- ❖ Proof of such assurance is manifested by **the believer’s valuation** of said faith = “...to them that have obtained **like precious faith** with us...”
- ❖ The faith of a believer today is **of the same equality of faith of the Apostle Peter.**
- ❖ Seven times in Peter’s epistles the Holy Spirit moved him to describe something as “precious.”
- ❖ The value of faith is increased as one understands the **WAY** of salvation.

(b) The way for the believer – “...**through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ...**”

- ❖ Salvation, correctly understood, places the emphasis upon the Lord Jesus Christ.
- ❖ In order to “build our faith” we must begin by having assurance of salvation.

(2) Christians and their blessings, 1:2

- ❖ “Grace and peace...” are a result of imputed righteousness.
- ❖ “...be multiplied...” = the multiplication that is derived from the “knowledge.”
- ❖ Such knowledge is an intimate and personal relationship with Christ that is experiential in total submission of the believer to know and do God’s will.
- ❖ Assurance of salvation enlightens a believer to possess a thankful heart.

Like last week, our passage this morning continues laying the foundation that is necessary to have BEFORE adding to our faith. According to the Scriptures, salvation rests entirely upon faith in the Lord Jesus Christ:

Acts 4:10 Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that **by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth**, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, *even by him* doth this man stand here before you whole.

11 This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become **the head of the corner**.

12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for **there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.**

❖ Faith in Christ is the beginning of new life for the believer, but such faith must be tended to and not left to deteriorate to dormancy.

1 Pet. 1:3 Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which **according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope** by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

1 Pet. 2:5 Ye also, **as lively stones, are built up** a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, **acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.**

❖ True Christianity appreciates all that salvation is, and affects not only our attitudes, but also our behavior in our daily lives.

(3) Christians and their behavior, 1:3a-b

(a) Our great gift, 1:3a “According **as his divine power hath given unto us...**”

- ❖ Our ability to live a Christian life is proportionate, “*according*,” as “...his divine power...” is appropriated to us.
- ❖ Believers are recipients of power from God **in order to live up to His standards.**

Rom. 1:16 **For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation** to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

❖ Believers are indwelt with the Holy Spirit in order to have spiritual strength.

Rom. 15:13 Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, **that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.**

1 Cor. 2:5 That **your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.**

Eph. 3:7 Whereof I was made a minister, **according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power. ...**

16 That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, **to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;**

... 20 Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, **according to the power that worketh in us,**

❖ Believers are weak vessels, but capable of exhibiting His power, for His glory.

2 Cor. 4:7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, **that the excellency of the power may be of God**, and not of us.

2 Tim. 1:7 For **God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power**, and of love, and of a sound mind.

❖ Spiritual power distinguishes the difference between those who “profess” Christ and those who “possess” Christ.

2 Tim. 3:5 **Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof**: from **such turn away**.

(b) Our great goal, 1:3b “...all things that *pertain* unto life and godliness...”

1 Tim. 2:2 For kings, and *for* all that are in authority; **that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.**

Titus 2:11 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,

12 Teaching us that, **denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;**

13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, **and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.**

b. How to be sure, 1:3c – 4a

i. That wonderful person, 1:3c “...**through the knowledge of him** that hath called us to **glory and virtue:**”

Col. 1:18 “...that in all *things* **he might have the preeminence.**”

❖ The best way to gain knowledge of Christ is to study the Scriptures:

Jn. 5:39 **Search the scriptures**...they are they which **testify of me.**

❖ The best way to please him is to implement His standard of living into our lives.

“...called us to glory and virtue:”

Original Word: ἀρετή

Transliteration: areté

Definition: moral goodness, virtue

Usage: goodness, a gracious act, virtue, uprightness.

arētē – properly, *virtue* ("moral excellence") which is *displayed* to enrich life.

<https://biblehub.com/greek/703.htm>

Moral goodness; the practice of moral duties and the abstaining from vice, or a conformity of life and conversation to the moral law. In this sense, *virtue* may be, and in many instances must be, distinguished from religion. The practice of moral duties merely from motives of convenience, or from compulsion, or from regard to reputation, is *virtue* as distinct from religion. **The practice of moral duties from sincere love to God and his laws, is *virtue*** and religion. In this sense it is true, That *virtue* only makes our bliss below.

VIRTUE is nothing but voluntary obedience to truth.

<http://www.kingjamesbibledictionary.com/Dictionary/virtue>

ii. Those wonderful promises, 1:4a
“Whereby are given unto us
**exceeding great and precious
promises...**”

Rom. 4:16 Therefore **it is of faith, that it might be by grace**; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of **the faith of Abraham**; who is the father of us all, ...

20 He staggered not at **the promise of God** through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God;

21 And **being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.**

22 And **therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness.**

Rom. 3:4 “...yea, let God be true, but every man a liar...”

Heb. 6:17 Wherein **God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath:**

18 That by two immutable things, in which *it was impossible for God to lie*, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:

19 **Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast**, and which entereth into that within the veil;

c. How to be sanctified, 1:4b-c

i. The great essential, 1:4b “...that by these ye might be **partakers of the divine nature...**”

❖ Salvation is a result of knowing God, and sanctification is the process of living like God.

❖ His divine nature, in us, motivates us to live a life resembling Him.

1 Jn 3:9 Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for **his seed remaineth in him**: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

Rom. 7:18 For I know that in me (that is, **in my flesh,**) **dwelleth no good thing**: for to will is present with me; but *how* to perform that which is good I find not.

Rom. 6:16 Know ye not, that **to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey**; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?

1 Pet. 2:11 Dearly beloved, I beseech *you* as strangers and pilgrims, **abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;**

Rom. 13:14 But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and **make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.**

1 Cor. 15:31 I protest by your rejoicing which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, **I die daily.**

Gal. 2:20 **I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live;** yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, **who loved me, and gave himself for me.**

❖ Salvation is the entrance to a new life in Christ, and His spirit joins our spirit in order for us to be co-workers with Him.

Eph. 2:8 For **by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:**

9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

10 For **we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works**, which God hath before ordained that **we should walk in them.**

Phil. 1:6 Being confident of this very thing, that **he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:**

Phil. 2:13 For it is **God which worketh in you both to will and to do** of *his* good pleasure.

Rom. 10:17 So then **faith cometh by hearing**, and hearing **by the word of God.**

Jn. 17:17 **Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.**

ii. The great escape, 1:4c “...having **escaped the corruption that is in the world** through lust.”

1 Jn. 5:4 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and **this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.**

5 Who is he that overcometh the world, but **he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?**

Rom. 8:37 Nay, in all these things **we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.**

Conclusion

In order to “add to your faith,” a believer must have assurance of being born again, knowing what salvation is and having knowledge of spiritual truth that substantiates genuine spiritual fellowship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

In order for us “*To Arise and Build our Faith,*” we need to know “Whom we have believed” and then serve Him because we love, and we love Him because He first loved us.

Phil. 4:6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

7 And **the peace of God, which passeth all understanding**, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things *are* honest, whatsoever things *are* just, whatsoever things *are* pure, whatsoever things *are* lovely, whatsoever things *are* of good report; **if there be any virtue**, and if *there be* any praise, **think on these things**.

9 Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, **do**: and **the God of peace** shall be with you.