

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.



Two weeks ago 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...**”

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

(1) The author, 1:1a-c

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

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

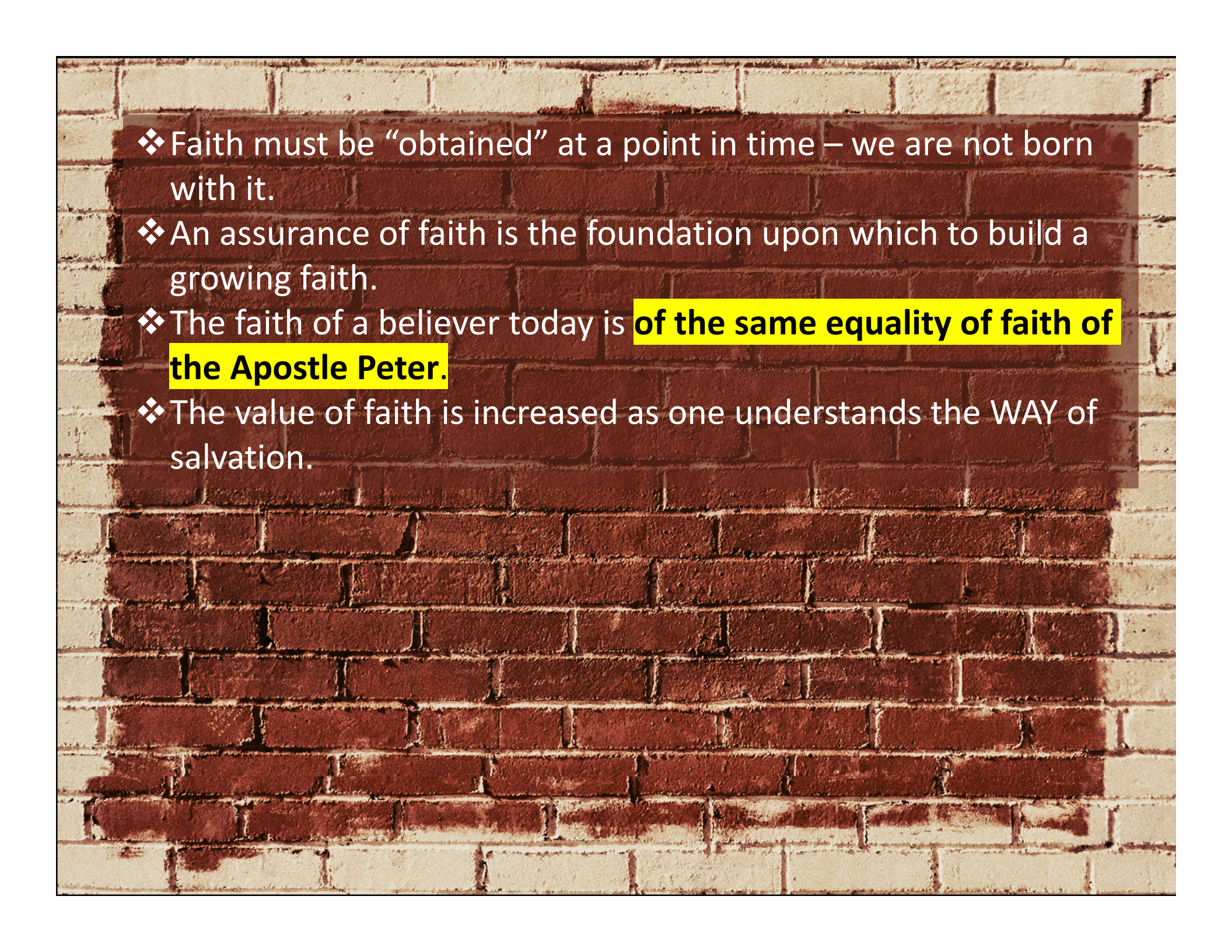
i. His lowly status, 1:1b “...a servant...”

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

(2) The audience, 1:1d—3b

(a) 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:**”

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

- 
- ❖ 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.
 - ❖ The faith of a believer today is **of the same equality of faith of the Apostle Peter.**
 - ❖ The value of faith is increased as one understands the WAY of salvation.

ii. 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.

(b) Christians and their blessings, 1:2

- ❖ 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.

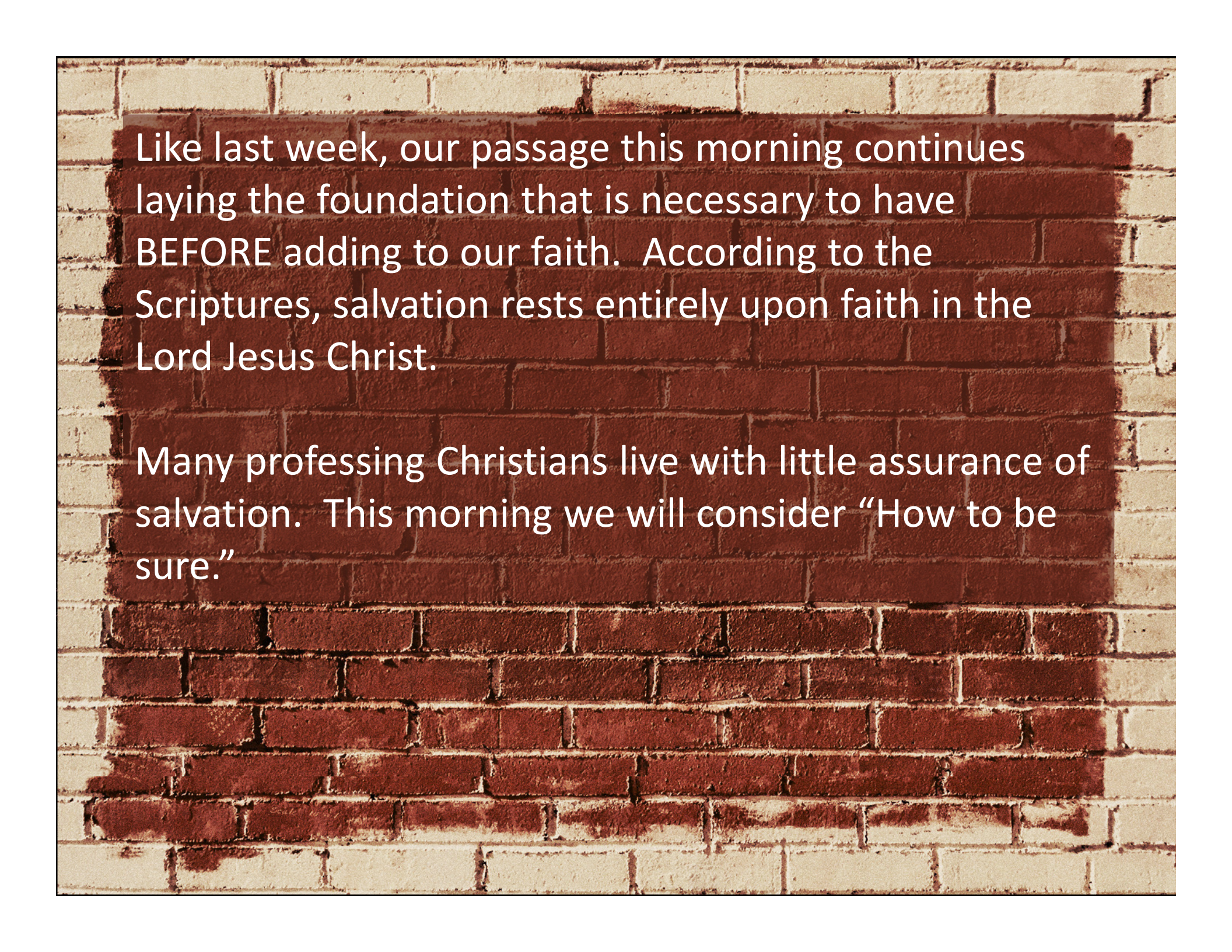
(c) Christians and their behavior, 1:3a-b

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

- ❖ Believers are recipients of power from God **in order to live up to His standards.**
- ❖ Believers are indwelled with the Holy Spirit in order to have spiritual strength.

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

Jn. 10:10 “...I am come that they might **have life**, and that they might **have it more abundantly.**”



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.

Many professing Christians live with little assurance of salvation. This morning we will consider “How to be sure.”

b. How to be sure, 1:3c – 4a

(1) 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.**”

❖ What do you know about Christ?

- The Incarnation?
- Redemption?
- Reconciliation?
- Fellowship with Him, on His terms?

- ❖ 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:”

- ❖ The “called us to glory” is referencing our future call to heaven and conformation to be like the Lord Jesus while on earth.

Rom. 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good **to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.**

29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate **to be conformed to the image of his Son**, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and **whom he justified, them he also glorified.**

❖ “Virtue” is the implementation of the present call to live a holy life.

Original Word: ἀρετή

Transliteration: areté

Definition: moral goodness, virtue

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

arétē – 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>

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

- ❖ “Whereby” reflects back to v. 3, “According as his divine power...”
- ❖ We have “great and precious promises” according to His power to provide them.

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;

- ❖ When our faith begins to waver, we can find an “anchor” for our soul as we remember such “exceeding great and precious promises” that strengthens our resolve to live for His glory!

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

(1) 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.**

1 Jn. 2:6 He that saith he abideth in him **ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.**

❖ 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.**

(2) The great escape, 1:4c "...having **escaped the corruption that is in the world** through lust."

- ❖ Before a believer comes to Christ, the susceptibility of sin corrupts lives.

Eph. 2:2 Wherein **in time past ye walked according to the course of this world**, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

3 Among whom also **we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind**; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

❖ After a believer comes to Christ, everything changes:

Eph. 2:4 But **God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us**,

5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (**by grace ye are saved**;))

6 And hath raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus:

7 That **in the ages to come** he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in *his* kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

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.

Jude 1:3 Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort *you* that **ye should earnestly contend for the faith** which was once delivered unto the saints.

20 But ye, beloved, **building up yourselves on your most holy faith**, praying in the Holy Ghost,

21 **Keep yourselves in the love of God**, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

22 And of some have compassion, making a difference:

23 And others save with fear, pulling *them* out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.

24 Now **unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,**

25 To the only wise God our Saviour, *be* glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.