

VISION 20/20

FOCUS

2 Pet. 1:8-9

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.

5 And beside this, giving all diligence, **add to your faith virtue**; and to virtue **knowledge**;

6 And to knowledge **temperance**; and to temperance **patience**; and to patience **godliness**;

7 And to godliness **brotherly kindness**; and to brotherly kindness **charity**.

8 For if these things be in you, and abound, they make *you that ye shall* neither *be* barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

9 But **he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off**, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.

Faith in Christ is the beginning of a new life for a believer, but, according to the Holy Spirit's moving upon the Apostle, faith needs to grow, and believers are commanded to develop a growing faith:

As we approach the beginning of a new year, many will make "resolutions" expressing desire to make commitment to change for the purpose of improvement in some area of life...

1. Diet
2. Exercise
3. Better person
4. Better relationships
5. Better everything

The Scriptures give us something better than "resolutions" – the Bible gives us spiritual direction that can help us overcome our weaknesses, for His honor and glory. In our passage this morning, we see the effect of "adding to our faith" and the deficiency if we do not add to our 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

2. The secret of continuing well, 1:5-9

a. The path of diligence, 1:5-8

(1) Faithful addition, 1:5-7

This morning we will focus on the introduction of our theme for 2020:

VISION	20/20
HIS VISION.	OUR FOCUS.
Learning.	Living.

After giving us the “Faithful Addition” in 2 Pet. 1:5-7, the Holy Spirit gives us encouragement, but follows it with a warning regarding distorted vision. For 2020, we will need clear vision as to what the Lord has in store for us individually, and collectively – for His glory.

(2) Fruitful abundance, 1:8

2 Pet. 1:8 For **if** these things be in you, and abound, **they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

- ❖ The promise of fruitful abundance is contingent upon the hypothetical possession and practice – “For **if** these things be in you, and **abound**...”

Original Word: πλεονάζω

Transliteration: pleonazó

Definition: to superabound, to make to abound

Usage: I have more than enough; I abound, increase.

Properly, *abounding in number (quantity)*. <https://biblehub.com/greek/4121.htm>

❖ The “Faithful addition” of 1:5-7 will have a dramatic power of influence in a believer’s daily life – “...**they make you** *that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.*”

Original Word: καθίστημι

Transliteration: kathistémi

Definition: to set in order, appoint (make you)

Usage: I set down, bring down to a place; I set in order, appoint, make, constitute.

kathístēmi (from *katá*, "down" and *hístēmi*, "to stand") – **properly, set down (in place), i.e. "put in charge," give standing (authority, status) which enables someone to rule (exercise decisive force).**

<https://biblehub.com/greek/2525.htm>

- ❖ True spirituality is the result of spiritual investment according to God's word and will.
- ❖ The spiritual challenge for the believer is to maintain diligence in implementing the "Faithful addition" of 1:5-7.
- ❖ Barrenness is a result of laziness, being idle rather than putting forth an effort to "add" spiritual elements to faith.

Original Word: ἀργός (opposite of ἔργον)

Transliteration: argos

Definition: inactive, idle

Usage: idle, lazy, thoughtless, unprofitable, injurious.

<https://biblehub.com/greek/692.htm>

❖ As a believer implements the elements of spirituality to faith, such believer will be affected in such a way for fruitfulness in personal knowledge to be gained.

Original Word: ἐπίγνωσις

Transliteration: epignósis

Definition: recognition, knowledge

Usage: knowledge of a particular point (directed towards a particular object); perception, discernment, recognition, intuition.

epígnōsis (from *epí*, "on, fitting" which intensifies *gnōsis*, "**knowledge gained through first-hand relationship**") – properly, "**contact-knowledge**" that is appropriate ("apt, fitting") to first-hand, experiential knowing. This is defined by the individual context.

<https://biblehub.com/greek/1922.htm>

❖ When such diligence is neglected, spiritual vision becomes distorted.

b. The path of delusion, 1:9

(1) The believer who has lost sight of his conviction,
1:9a “But **he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off...**”

❖ Vulnerability to spiritual darkness is a consequence of a believer’s lack of diligence in applying spiritual principles for personal growth.

Original Word: παρέιμι

Transliteration: pareimi

Definition: to sit constantly beside

Usage: I am present, am near; I have come, arrived. (not present = lack)

<https://biblehub.com/greek/3918.htm>

❖ Vision is impaired when spiritual growth is undeveloped – “...cannot see afar off...”

Original Word: μυωπάζω

Transliteration: miópazó

Definition: to be shortsighted

Usage: I am short-sighted, blink, see dimly. (see only what is near)

<https://biblehub.com/greek/3467.htm>

How myopia shaped the attitudes of Theodore Roosevelt and Ronald Reagan

<https://www.opthalmologytimes.com/refractive/how-myopia-shaped-attitudes-theodore-roosevelt-and-ronald-reagan>

(2) The believer who has lost sight of his conversion,
1:9b “...and hath forgotten that he was purged
from his old sins.”

- ❖ Lackadaisical spiritual attitudes lead to negligent distraction and lack of commitment.

Prov. 14:14 **The backslider in heart shall be filled with his own ways:** and a good man *shall be* **satisfied from himself.**

- ❖ Impaired vision requires the following: remember and repent, or be removed:

Rev. 2:4 Nevertheless I have *somewhat* against thee, because **thou hast left thy first love.**

5 **Remember** therefore from whence thou art fallen, and **repent, and do the first works**; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will **remove** thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.

Summary

- ❖ Adding to our faith has a powerful effect upon the quality of our spiritual growth.
- ❖ Neglecting to add to our faith results in spiritual lethargy and unfruitfulness.

Conclusion

2 Tim. 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Heb. 6:9 But, **beloved, we are persuaded better things of you, and things that accompany salvation**, though we thus speak.

10 For **God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love**, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.