

ARISE AND BUILD

Neh. 2:20

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

“Arise and Build Your Faith – a Great Gift for Christmas”

2 Pet. 1:1-6

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**;



A few 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:

As we approach the Christmas season, one of the best gifts you could give yourself, your loved ones, and your church, is to give yourself the commitment to adding 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
2. **The secret of continuing well**, 1:5-9

❖ There are seven vital aspects we are commanded to add to our foundation of faith –

- virtue
- knowledge
- temperance
- patience
- godliness
- brotherly kindness
- charity

➤ These seven aspects can be grouped into three distinctive parts:

- (1) The character of our faith; “virtue and knowledge”
- (2) The character of our feelings; “temperance and patience”
- (3) The character of our fellowship; “godliness, brotherly kindness, and charity”

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

i. Faithful addition, 1:5-7

- (1) We must not only believe, but also behave, 1:5a “And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith **virtue**...”

- ❖ The beginning of verse five stresses how important it is for a believer to “add” to the foundation of faith – “**And beside this...**”
- ❖ **As important as the first four verses are in establishing the foundation of faith, verse five indicates that the next step is just as equally important.**
- ❖ The “diligent” effort involved to add to our faith is **expedient dedication**.
- ❖ A believer is commanded to focus upon “adding” to the foundation of faith.
- ❖ The first spiritual ingredient listed to “add” to the foundation of faith is virtue.
- ❖ Such “virtue” is an active, desire of “moral energy” to invigorate the soul and encourages a believer to be a fearless witness for Christ.

(2) We must not only have **integrity**, but also be **informed**, 1:5b “...and to virtue **knowledge**;”

- ❖ Scriptural knowledge applied to virtue = energetic zeal that is modified by truth.

(3) We must not only be **taught**, but also be **temperate**, 1:6a “And to knowledge **temperance**...” = “self-control”

- ❖ Temperance is a personal discipline that engages spiritual warfare.
- ❖ Temperance is a daily requirement.
- ❖ Temperance is a perpetual battle within a believer’s heart.
- ❖ Temperance must include counteracting the flesh by walking in the Spirit.
- ❖ Walking in the Spirit includes spiritual activities:
 - Contemplation: our reading = The Word of God
 - Communication: our praying
 - Concentration: keeping our mind in the right place – Isa. 26:3

(4) We must not only be in **possession**, but also have **patience**, 1:6b “...and to temperance **patience**...”

- ❖ Patience is spiritual maturity manifested by endurance, an indication of genuine spirituality.

This morning we consider the fifth ingredient to add to faith – **godliness**.

(5) We must not only be **patiently good**, but also be **patiently godly**, 1:6c “...and to patience **godliness**;

❖ Godliness is an inner conviction of holiness unto God that is manifested in an outwardly way by the characteristics one lives life.

GODLINESS, *noun* [from godly.] Piety; belief in God, and reverence for his character and laws.

1. A religious life; a careful observance of the laws of God and performance of religious duties, **proceeding from love and reverence for the divine character and commands**; Christian obedience.

Godliness is profitable unto all things. 1 Timothy 4:7

<http://webstersdictionary1828.com/Dictionary/godliness>

Original Word: εὐσέβεια (noun)

Transliteration: eusebeia

Usage: piety (towards God), godliness, devotion, godliness.

eusébeia (from *eú* "well" and *sébomai*, "venerate, pay homage")

– **properly, someone's inner response to the things of God**

which shows itself in godly piety (reverence). *eusébeia* ("godly heart-response") naturally expresses itself in reverence for God, i.e. what He calls sacred (worthy of veneration).

<https://biblehub.com/greek/2150.htm>

(a) Godliness Begins with a Relationship
that is Spiritual

2 Pet. 1:3 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.

❖ The “divine nature” is a spiritual transformation occurring at one’s salvation.

Jn. 4:24 **God is a Spirit**: and they that worship him must worship *him* in spirit and in truth.

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.

- ❖ A lack of spiritual relationship with God = an unsaved sinner who needs salvation.

Rom. 8:9 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, **if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you**. Now **if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his**.

(b) Godliness is Built by Reflecting the Savior

- ❖ Godliness is a by-product of the spiritual relationship with Christ.

❖ As Jesus reflected His Father, so should a believer reflect Christ:

➤ Consider the example of Christ:

Jn. 1:18 No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, **he hath declared him.**

Heb. 1:3 **Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person,** and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

Jn. 14:8 Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us.

9 Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? **he that hath seen me hath seen the Father**; and how sayest thou *then*, Shew us the Father?

❖ The First Epistle of Peter expressed the principle of a believer representing Christ:

1 Pet. 2:9 But **ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people**; that ye **should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light**:

10 Which in time past *were* not a people, **but are now the people of God**: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.

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

12 Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by *your* good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.

➤ The Special Relationship – 2:9a “But ye *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people...v. 10... **but *are* now the people of God...**”

1 Jn. 3:1 **Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God:** therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

2 **Beloved, now are we the sons of God,** and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

3 And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

➤ The Spiritual Responsibility – 2:9b “...that **ye should shew forth the praises of him** who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:”

Mt. 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, **that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.**

➤ The Sonship Reflection – 2:12 “Having **your conversation** honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, **they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.**”

1 Tim. 3:16 And without controversy **great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest** in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

❖ A believer's identity should be wrapped up in a relationship with Christ!

Deu 7:6 For thou *art* an holy people unto the LORD thy God: **the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself**, above all people that *are* upon the face of the earth.

7 The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye *were* the fewest of all people:

8 **But because the LORD loved you**, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the LORD brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

9 **Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he is God, the faithful God**, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations;

❖ A believer is loved by God!

Phil. 1:21 For **to me to live is Christ**, and to die is gain.

1 Cor. 6:19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost *which is* in you, which ye have of God, and **ye are not your own?**

20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore **glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.**

Rom. 14:8 For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: **whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's.**

Summary

- ❖ A believer's life of godliness is a consistent influence of "adding" to the foundation of faith.
- ❖ Each additional aspect to faith is another step of living a victorious Christian life:
 - Virtue = Moral energy for motivation
 - Knowledge = Scriptural truth for assurance
 - Temperance = Self-control at all times
 - Patience = Endurance to finish "the race of life"
 - Godliness = Living daily in reflecting the Lord Jesus Christ

1 Tim. 2:1 I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, *and* giving of thanks, be made for all men;

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

1 Tim. 4:7 But refuse profane and old wives' fables, and exercise thyself *rather* unto **godliness**.

8 For bodily exercise profiteth little: but **godliness is profitable unto all things**, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.

1 Tim. 6:5 Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself.

6 But **godliness with contentment is great gain.** ...

11 But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, **godliness**, faith, love, patience, meekness.

2 Pet. 3:11 *Seeing then that* all these things shall be dissolved, **what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,**

2 Tim. 3:1 This know also, that **in the last days perilous times shall come.**

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

Conclusion


Phil. 3:17 Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample.

18 (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, [that they are] the enemies of the cross of Christ:

19 Whose end *is* destruction, whose God *is* their belly, and whose glory *is* in their shame, who mind earthly things.)

20 For **our conversation is in heaven**; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:

21 Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.



“I think God has planned the strength and beauty of youth to be physical. But the strength and beauty of old age is spiritual. **We gradually lose the strength and beauty that is temporary so we'll be sure to concentrate on the strength and beauty that is forever.** And so we'll be eager to leave the temporary deteriorating part of us and be truly homesick for our eternal home. If we stayed young and strong and beautiful we might never want to leave.”

— **J. Robertson McQuilkin**

https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/115623.J_Robertson_McQuilkin