

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. 1:1-7

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**.



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”

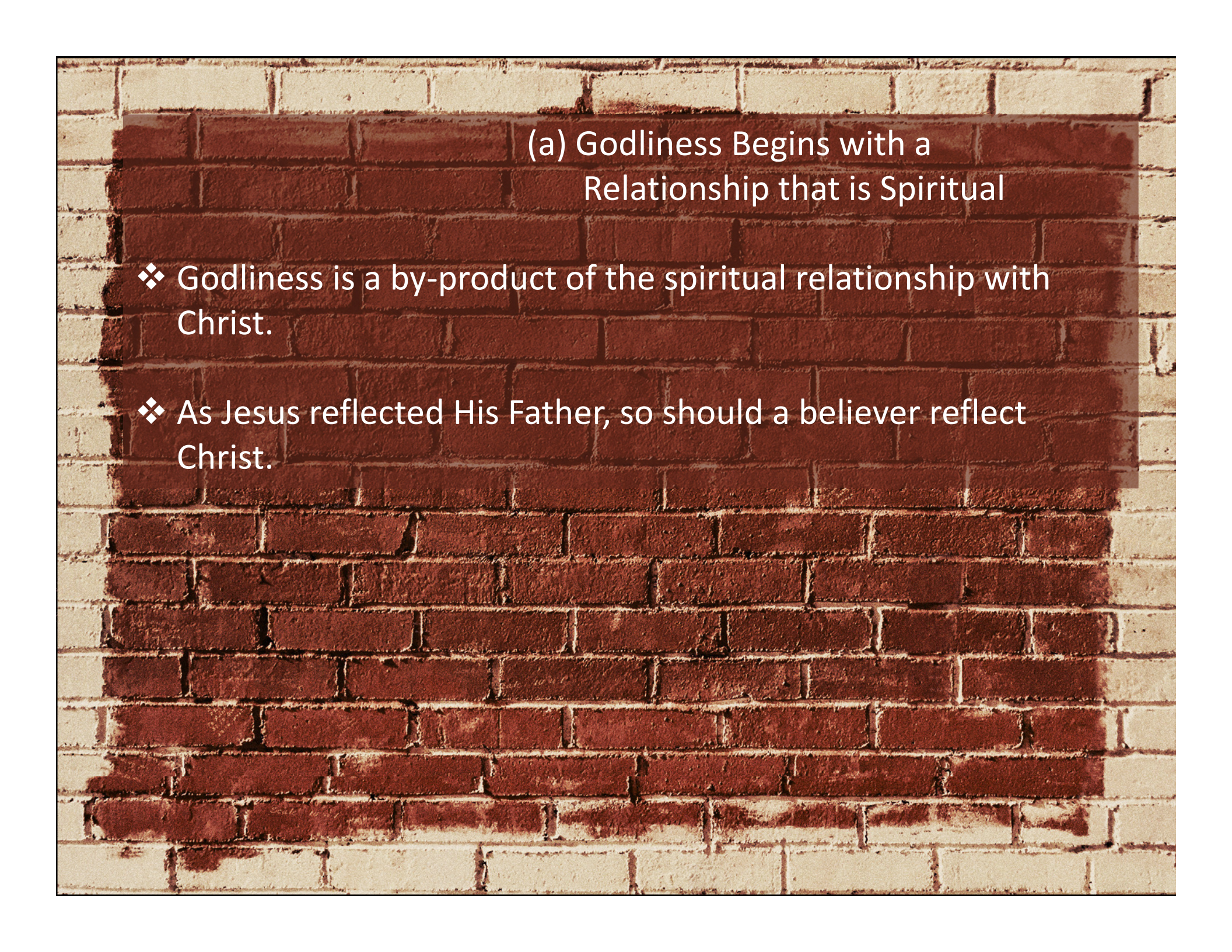
❖ Temperance is spiritual self-control at all times.

(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.

(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.



(a) Godliness Begins with a
Relationship that is Spiritual

- ❖ Godliness is a by-product of the spiritual relationship with Christ.
- ❖ As Jesus reflected His Father, so should a believer reflect Christ.

This morning we consider the sixth ingredient to **add** to faith – **brotherly kindness.**

(6) We must not only be **holy**, but also be **helpful**, 1:7a “And to godliness **brotherly kindness...**”

Original Word: φιλαδελφία

Transliteration: philadelphia

Usage: brotherly love, love of Christian brethren.

philadelphia (from *phílos*, "loving friend" and *adelphós*, "a brother") – **properly, affection for the brethren (fellow-believers).**

<https://biblehub.com/greek/5360.htm>

- ❖ Godliness is developed as a believer adds brotherly love to his heart.
- ❖ Every believer should be able to mimic *Mr. Roger's Neighborhood*.
- ❖ The Holy Spirit moved Peter to reiterate what He had moved Paul to write to the church in Ephesus:

Eph. 4:25 Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another.

26 Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:

27 Neither give place to the devil.

28 Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with *his* hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.

29 Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

31 Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:

32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

➤ Cultivate Trust, v. 25

Eph. 4:25 Wherefore putting away lying, **speaking every man truth with his neighbour**: for we are members one of another.

➤ Cease Temper-tantrums, v. 26

Eph. 4:26 **Be ye angry, and sin not:** let not the sun go down upon **your wrath:**

Prov. 25:28 He that *hath* **no rule over his own spirit** *is like* a city that is broken down, and without walls.

Prov. 16:32 *He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and* **he that ruleth his spirit** than he that taketh a city.

➤ Counter Temptation, v. 27

Eph. 4:27 Neither give **place to the devil.**

Eph. 6:11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may **be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.**

2 Cor. 2:10 To whom ye forgive any thing, I *forgive* also: for if I forgave any thing, to whom I forgave *it*, for your sakes *forgive I it* in the person of Christ;

11 **Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.**

➤ Control Testimony, v. 28

Eph. 4:28 Let him that stole **steal no more**: but rather let him labour, working with *his* hands the thing which is good, **that he may have to give to him that needeth.**

❖ Stealing is usually focused upon selfishness, taking from others, while the Bible teaches “work ethic” which includes helping others.

➤ Communicate Tenderly, v. 29

Eph. 4:29 **Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth**, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it **may minister grace unto the hearers.**

Prov. 15:23 **A man hath joy by the answer of his mouth: and a word spoken in due season, how good is it!**

Prov. 16:24 **Pleasant words are as an honeycomb**, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones.

Prov. 25:11 **A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver.**

➤ Conform Tenaciously, v. 30

Eph. 4:30 And **grieve not the holy Spirit of God**, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

1 Thess. 5:19 **Quench not the Spirit.**

- ❖ Our vision of God's greatness is woefully hindered by the blindness of our fallible humanity.
- ❖ The Holy Spirit's power is our source of triumph over the obstacle of the flesh.

Gal. 5:16 *This* I say then, **Walk in the Spirit**, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

17 For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

25 If we live in the Spirit, **let us also walk in the Spirit.**

➤ Cleanse Totally, v. 31

Eph. 4:31 Let **all** bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, **be put away from you**, with all malice:

❖ The “root of bitterness” produces fruit of frustration, fruitlessness, and broken fellowship.

Heb. 12:15 Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest **any root of bitterness** springing up **trouble you**, and **thereby many be defiled**;

❖ To please Christ, a believer takes action for correction to totally cleanse the heart.

Job 11:14 If iniquity *be* in thine hand, **put it far away**, and let not wickedness dwell in thy tabernacles.

Isa. 55:7 Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

➤ Cherish Tenderheartedness, v. 32

Eph. 4:32 And be ye kind one to another, **tenderhearted, forgiving one another**, even **as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you**.

❖ Brotherly kindness will strengthen godliness when its practice becomes a daily routine.

Rom. 12:10 Be kindly affectioned one to another with **brotherly love**; in honour preferring one another;

Heb. 13:1 Let **brotherly love** continue.

❖ Brotherly kindness is the spiritual by-product of having fellowship with the Lord:

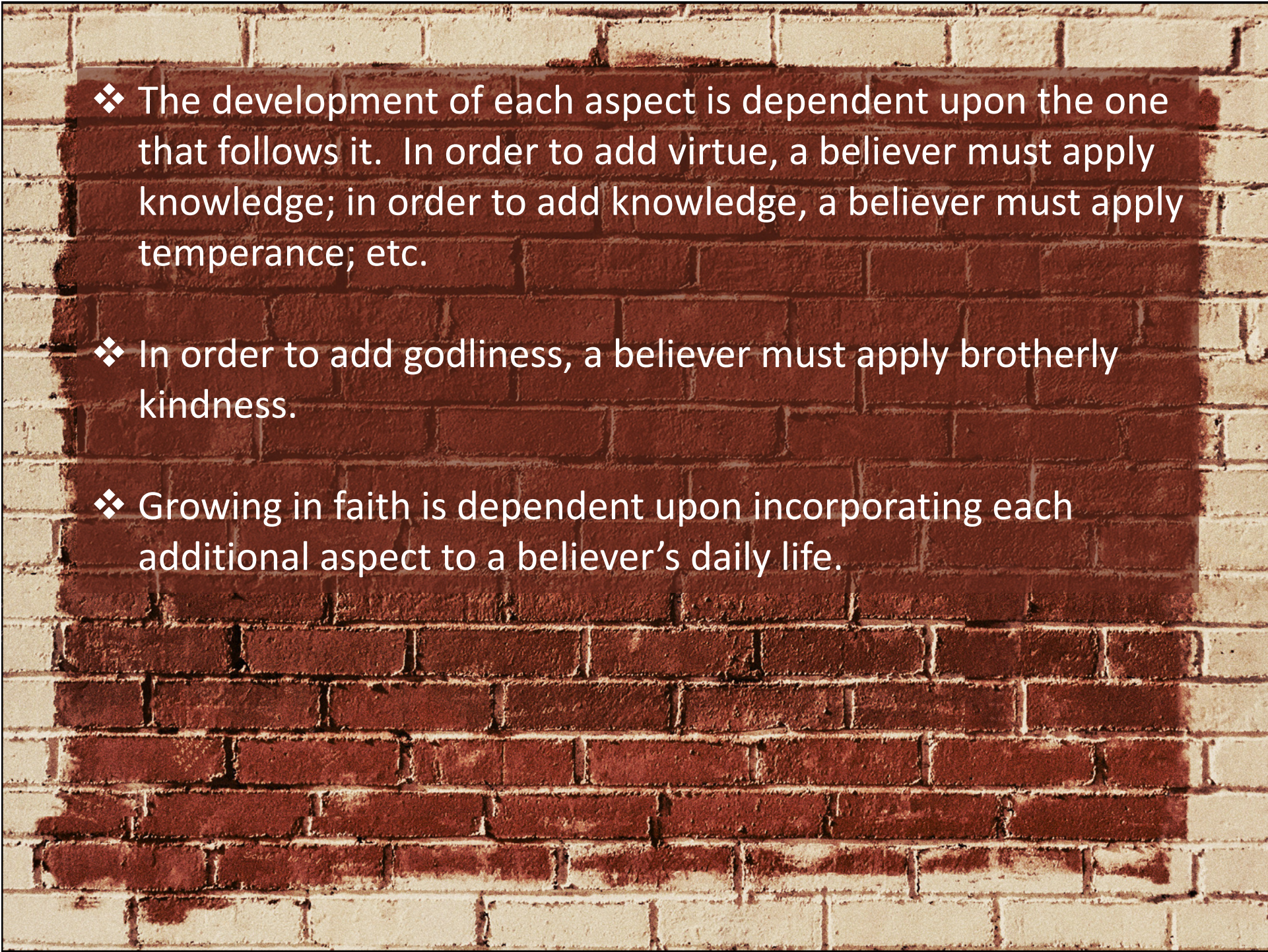
1 Thess. 4:9 But as touching **brotherly love** ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another.

❖ Brotherly kindness that is genuine in its source will lead to love that is a reflection of God's love for us.

1 Pet. 1:22 Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto **unfeigned love of the brethren**, *see that ye* love one another with a pure heart fervently:

Summary

- ❖ A believer's life of brotherly kindness 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
 - Brotherly kindness = A genuine display of loving kindness reflects a spiritual relationship with the Savior.

- 
- ❖ The development of each aspect is dependent upon the one that follows it. In order to add virtue, a believer must apply knowledge; in order to add knowledge, a believer must apply temperance; etc.
 - ❖ In order to add godliness, a believer must apply brotherly kindness.
 - ❖ Growing in faith is dependent upon incorporating each additional aspect to a believer's daily life.

Conclusion

Eph. 5:1 Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children;

2 And **walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us**, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.

3 But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, **let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints;**

8 For ye were sometimes darkness, but **now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:**

9 (For the fruit of the Spirit *is* in all goodness and righteousness and truth;)

10 Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord.