

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

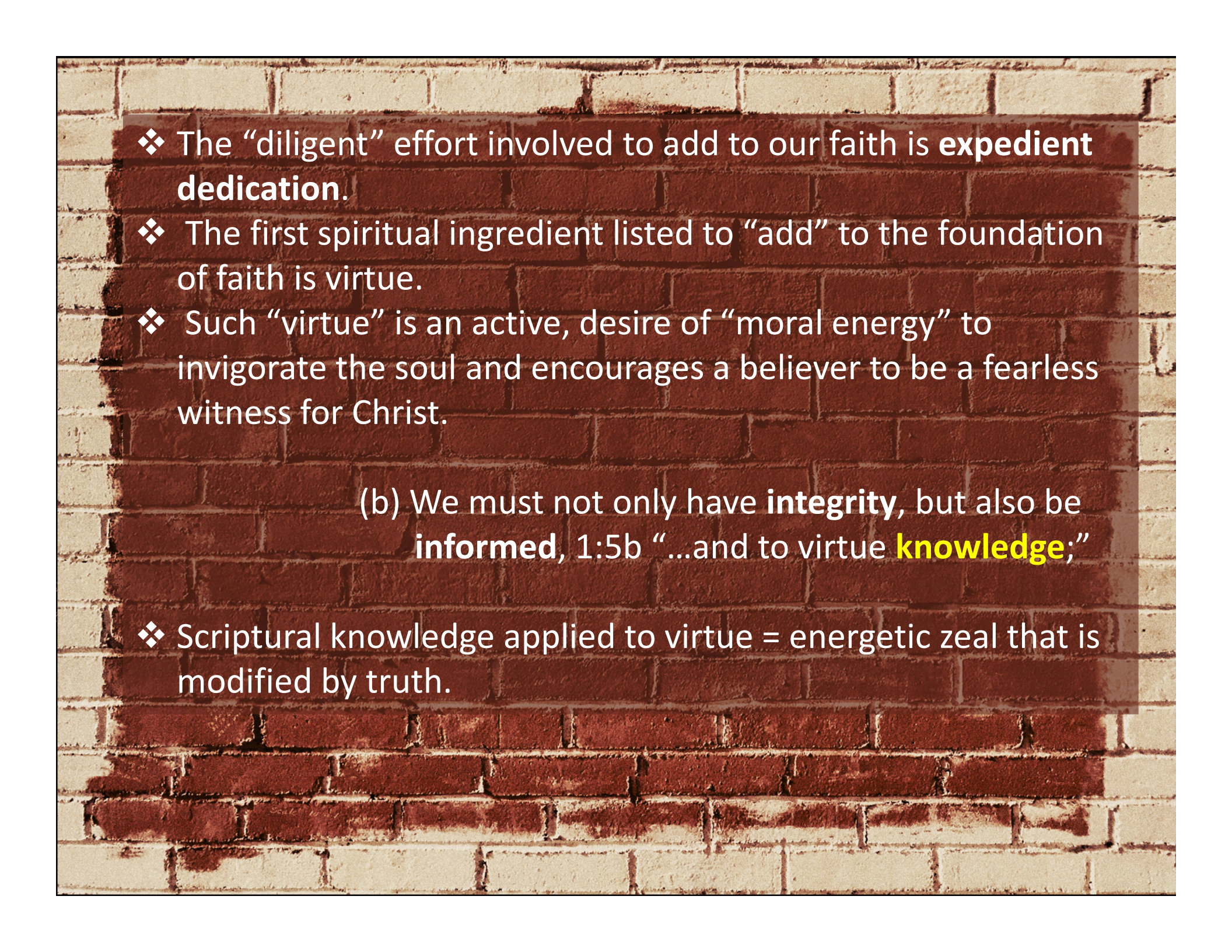
a. The path of diligence, 1:5-8

(1) Faithful addition, 1:5-7

(a) 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.

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- ❖ The “diligent” effort involved to add to our faith is **expedient dedication**.
 - ❖ 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.

(b) 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.

(c) 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.

(d) 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.

(e) 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.

i. 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.

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

- ❖ 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. 4:25-32

This morning we consider the seventh ingredient to add to faith – **charity.**

(g) We must not only be **liberal**, but also be **lovable**, 1:7b “...and to brotherly kindness **charity.**”

CHARITY, *noun*

In a general sense, love, benevolence, good will; that disposition of heart which inclines men to think favorably of their fellow man, and to do them good. In a **theological sense, it includes supreme love to God, and universal good will to men.**

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

Original Word: ἀγάπη

Transliteration: agapé

Definition: love, goodwill

Usage: love, benevolence, good will, esteem; plur: love-feasts.

agápē – In the NT, (*agápē*) typically refers to *divine love* (= *what God prefers*). <https://biblehub.com/greek/26.htm>

❖ One of the greatest examples of “love in action” is found in John 13:

i. The Evidence of Love’s Precedence, Jn. 13:1-5

Jn. 13:1 Now before the feast of the passover, **when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end.**

2 And supper being ended, the devil having now put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's *son*, to betray him;

3 Jesus **knowing** that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he was come from God, and went to God;

4 He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself.

5 After that **he poureth water into a bason, and began to wash the disciples' feet**, and to wipe *them* with the towel wherewith he was girded.

❖ Loving acts proceed from a heart that is first transformed by the Savior's love.

1 Jn. 4:19 We love **him**, because he first loved us.

❖ A believer's heart is properly demonstrated in connection with salvation.

Rom. 5:1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

2 By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

3 And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;

4 And patience, experience; and experience, hope:

5 And hope maketh not ashamed; **because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.**

6 For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.

7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die.

8 **But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.**

❖ The Lord Jesus gave the disciples an example of His love in a humble display:

ii. The Example of Love's Practice, Jn. 13:12-17

Jn. 13:12 So after he had washed their feet, and had taken his garments, and was set down again, he said unto them, **Know ye what I have done to you?**

13 Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am.

14 If I then, *your* Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet.

15 **For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.**

16 Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him.

17 **If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.**

❖ Washing feet is not a church ordinance – it is a believer's example of loving obedience.

❖ Our happiness is connected to our action – “...if ye do them.”

iii. The Expression of Love's Perplexity, Jn. 13:21

Jn. 13:21 When Jesus had thus said, he was troubled in spirit, and testified, and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me.

❖ Expressions of love are possible when a believer's heart is heavy.

Jn. 13:1 Now before the feast of the passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world...”

❖ We will never face anything so difficult as facing Calvary, yet, Jesus showed that even in the midst of adversity, love can be expressed!

iv. The Exceptionality of Love's Purpose, Jn. 13:33-35

Jn. 13:33 Little children, yet a little while I am with you. Ye shall seek me: and as I said unto the Jews, Whither I go, ye cannot come; so now I say to you.

34 **A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.**

35 **By this shall all *men* know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.**

❖ When “brotherly kindness” is influenced by “charity,” a profound capability is provided to a believer – “...as I have loved you...love one another. (35) By this shall all *men* know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.”



❖ Charity is the capstone of the spiritual ingredients to add to our foundation of faith.

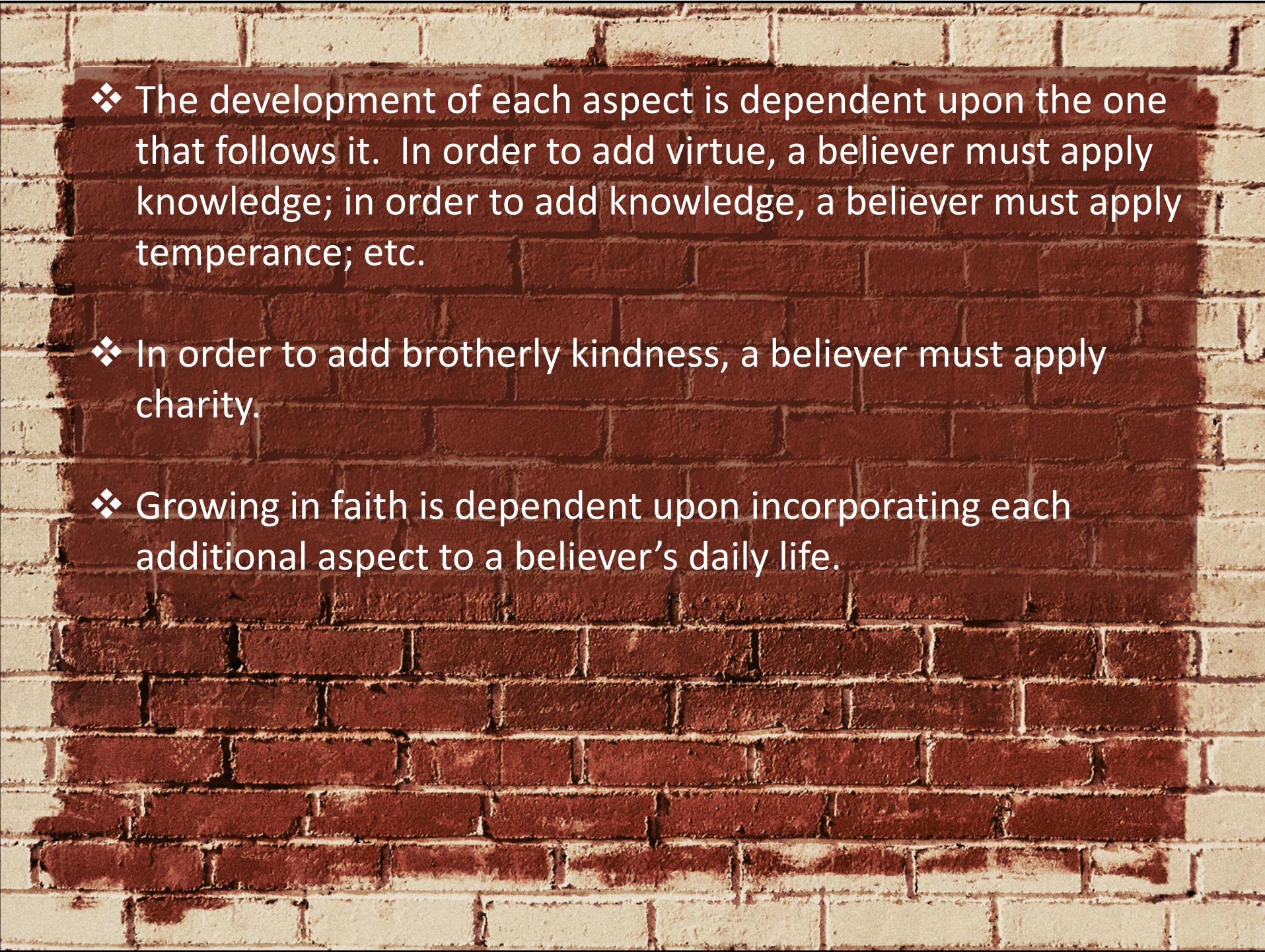
1 Cor. 13:13 And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but **the greatest of these is charity.**

Col. 3:14 And **above all these things put on charity**, which is **the bond of perfectness.**

Summary

❖ 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.
- Charity = self-sacrificial love, like the Savior, for the sake of another, looking for nothing in return.

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- ❖ 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 brotherly kindness, a believer must apply charity.
 - ❖ Growing in faith is dependent upon incorporating each additional aspect to a believer's daily life.

Conclusion

1 Jn. 4:9 In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, **that we might live through him.**

10 **Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins.**

11 Beloved, if God so loved us, **we ought also to love one another.**