



**Sunday March 03, 2024**  
**Add To Your Faith**

Today, we are going to look at a passage from 2 Peter chapter 1 and learn some practical truths to apply in our lives.

This second letter by Apostle Peter was written towards the end of his life around AD 65-68.

Peter states that he will not be careless or neglect to remind the recipients of this letter of some very important things even though they were 'established in the present truth'. In fact, he mentions that he will make sure that there will always be a reminder of this message to them even after he passes away.

So, obviously what he is writing as led by the Holy Spirit is of utmost importance for the church.

**2 Peter 1:12-15**

**12 For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth.**

**13 Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you, 14 knowing that shortly I must put off my tent, just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me.**

**15 Moreover I will be careful to ensure that you always have a reminder of these things after my decease.**

Kindly follow as we read through the following passage:

**2 Peter 1:1-11**

**1 Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ,  
To those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:**

**2 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord,  
3 as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness,  
through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,  
4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that  
through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the  
corruption that is in the world through lust.**

**5 But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge,**



**6 to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, 7 to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love.**

**8 For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

**9 For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.**

**10 Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things, you will never stumble;**

**11 for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.**

Peter describes what we have and who we have become in Christ Jesus and exhorts all believers to diligently add to their faith.

This is Peter who *by faith* walked on water when Jesus commanded him, who *by faith* took the hand of the man who couldn't walk and lifted him up in Jesus' name, who *by faith* prayed and raised to life Tabitha (Dorcas) who had been dead. This is the same Peter who exhorts in Vs. 5 'giving all diligence, add to *your faith*' and lists 7 attributes.

The Greek word for *Add* translates to *fully supply, minister*

The outcome of adding or growing these attributes in our life (to our faith):

Vs. 8 – we will not be unfruitful

Vs. 10 – we will never stumble

Vs. 11 – we will not give up & turn back but step into the everlasting Kingdom

The outcome of not growing these attributes in addition to our faith:

Vs. 9 – unable to see far ahead, unable to understand and receive spiritual truth, forgetting our position in Christ and even falling back to our old way of life.

Let's look at these 7 attributes:

1. Character (virtue)
2. Knowledge (Spiritual understanding, Renewed mind)
3. Discipline (Self-Control, Temperance)
4. Endurance (Perseverance, Patience)
5. Godliness (Purity, Reverence)
6. Kindness (Fellowship, warm Friendliness)
7. Love



## 1. CHARACTER

Virtue or good character is very essential for a believer.

The Greek word used for virtue is *Arete* (Gr.) - intrinsic good value, excellence

1 Peter 2:9 states that we, as believers, have been chosen to *put on display* (proclaim) in and through our lives, the *arete* of God. So, we have been called and chosen to display Christlikeness in our lives.

Character is not who others think we are – that is reputation.

Character is also not who we think we are – may not always be accurate.

Character is who we really are especially, when no one is watching us.

- a) **Our private and secret choices display our character.**
- b) **Companions (whom or what we time the most time with) influence character.**  
Be discerning – esp. social media, internet, movies, music, etc.
- c) **Challenges (trials, difficult circumstances) build character. Don't get discouraged**

**Romans 5:1-4**

**1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,**

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

**3 And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; 4 and perseverance, character; and character, hope.**

Strong character enables us to face adversities with a capacity to keep standing and not fall.

## 2. KNOWLEDGE

Peter is referring to **Spiritual knowledge & understanding** not Earthly knowledge or learning (which is important). But Peter is specifically referring to the knowledge of God, knowing Jesus. We see this in several verses 2 Peter 1:2,3; 2 Peter 2:20; 2 Peter 3:18

Growing and increasing in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus.



*Why is this important?*

**a) Ignorance is not bliss.**

**Hosea 4:6**

**My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; Because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.**

The enemy uses our ignorance of spiritual truth to his advantage to take us captive and bring in deception and destruction.

**b) Spiritual knowledge leads us to our spiritual inheritance.**

**Acts 20:32**

**“So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.**

Knowledge is the bridge to walking in (experiencing) daily the spiritual inheritance that is ours in Christ Jesus.

**c) Spiritual knowledge brings spiritual strength**

**Daniel 11:32b**

**...but the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits.**

So, it is not just accumulation of facts that we are pursuing, but spiritual knowledge leading to renewing of our minds, which leads to transformed and victorious living.

**To grow in spiritual knowledge & understanding:**

- **Read & meditate on the Word (have a healthy appetite, hunger)**
- **Receive the revelation of the Word from the Holy Spirit**
- **Pray in the spirit (tongues)**

### **3. DISCIPLINE**

Some other words that can be used - self-control, temperance, alert discipline.

- refers to mastery or control over all our desires, inclinations and appetites.

Needed to have a strong and steady journey through life, our walk with God.

This is the same word used in describing the fruit of the Spirit in Gal 5:22,23



The fruit of the Spirit is discipline. The Holy Spirit helps us to develop this in our lives.

So, it is not just our self-control and will-power but, our cooperation with the Holy Spirit as He produces this characteristic in our lives.

*Why is this important?*

### **Proverbs 25:28**

**Whoever has no rule over his own spirit is like a city broken down, without walls.**

Without discipline/self-control, though we might accomplish great things, we vulnerable to the attack of the enemy.

**Areas to discipline: (all 3 realms of who we are – spirit, soul & body - interconnected)**

#### **a) Our spirit (our inner man)**

##### **Ephesians 3:16**

**that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man,**

We need to be strong in our spirit to influence our soul and body. Out of our heart flow the issues of life.

#### **b) Our mind**

##### **Romans 12:2**

**And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.**

A renewed mind is a disciplined mind with a strengthened will to say 'yes' to the things of God. Renew – take on God's thoughts & discard fleshly, sinful thoughts.

#### **c) Our body**

We need to steward our health – diet, exercise, rest – so, we can fulfill God's plans and purposes for our life.

### **4. ENDURANCE**

Other versions also use the words perseverance, patience

*In the Greek, it translates into endurance that's **cheerful** and **hopeful**. **Patient continuance** while waiting*



**Endurance is the ability to:**

- Press through (persevere) with determination.
- Pursue with undiminished resolve over time or through difficulty.
- Patiently wait till the expected outcome.
- Passionately hold on to what is right and true without weakening.

So, endurance gives us durability and longevity. Endurance can be developed.

**We need endurance:**

- When things require time, effort and preparation. (eg. Medical college, ministry)
- When things go wrong (eg. Life's challenges)
- When there are delays we don't understand (eg. fulfilment of God's promises)
- When there's discouragement or distraction. (eg. suffering wrongfully)

**What do we do while we are 'enduring'?**

**a) Be focused on Jesus**

**Hebrews 12:1-3**

**1** Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

**2** looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

**3** For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls.

**b) Be anchored to His promises**

**2 Corinthians 1:20**

For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.

Anchor yourself to the Word quickened by the Holy Spirit

**c) Be inspired by testimonies**

**James 5:10-11**

**10** My brethren, take the prophets, who spoke in the name of the Lord, as an example of suffering and patience. **11** Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have



heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end intended by the Lord—that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful.

**d) Be reminded of the successful outcome**  
Continually remind yourself.

## 5. GODLINESS

Godliness is piety, holiness, purity.

Peter writes in his epistles about holiness

1 Peter 1:14-17 – God who called us is holy so He wants us to be holy.

1 Peter 2:11 – abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul.

2 Peter 1:4 – we are invited to share in God’s divine nature and express it in our lives

In God’s call to live a holy life, He has given us everything that we need to live such a life.

**Godliness is not:**

- Isolation from everyone, disconnection
- A ‘holier than thou’ attitude
- A set of “dos and don’ts”

**Ephesians 4:23-24**

**23 and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.**

So, Godliness is the daily outworking of the new nature that we have as new creations in Christ Jesus. ***Godliness is the outward working of our inward change.***

**Challenge to a life of purity: Temptation**

(invitation, inducement to move away from holiness and indulge in sin, a challenge to our faith)

Every person is tempted when they are drawn by their own desires and trapped. Desires conceived weaken our will and give birth to sin.

**Vulnerable areas of temptation for men**

- sexuality
- Ego (pride, fame, power, influence)
- Self-sufficiency (money, intelligence).



### **Vulnerable areas of temptation for women**

- Security (being loved, accepted),
- Self-identity
- Self-esteem & affirmation

### **Some responses to temptation:**

Guard against temptation.

Resist temptation.

Flee from temptation.

### **Rewards of Godliness**

#### **Psalm 4:3**

**But know that the Lord has set apart for Himself him who is godly; The Lord will hear when I call to Him.**

#### **Psalm 18:23-24**

**23 I was also blameless before Him, And I kept myself from my iniquity. 24 Therefore the Lord has recompensed me according to my righteousness, according to the cleanness of my hands in His sight.**

#### **Matthew 5:8**

**Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God.**

### **6. KINDNESS**

Brotherly kindness, warm friendliness, brotherly love

Showing kindness is not a sign of weakness. It is not for certain personality types. It is the fruit of the Holy Spirit.

#### **1 Peter 3:8-9**

**8 Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous; 9 not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing.**

We are called to be kindhearted, compassionate, courteous.





**Romans 12:10**

**Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another**

**Kindness is expressed when we:**

- Show mercy (kindness) cheerfully.
- Forgive without retaliation.
- Speak (communicate) with gentleness and honor.
- Give generously & show hospitality
- Serve sacrificially.

**Challenges:**

- Time and busy schedules hold us back
- Abuse of kindness & generosity

**2 Thessalonians 3:11-13**

**11 For we hear that there are some who walk among you in a disorderly manner, not working at all, but are busybodies. 12 Now those who are such we command and exhort through our Lord Jesus Christ that they work in quietness and eat their own bread. 13 But as for you, brethren, do not grow weary in doing good.**

**Galatians 6:9**

**And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.**

**7. LOVE**

***Agape (Gr.) benevolence, affection, love feast***

**Matthew 22:37-40**

**37 Jesus said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’**

**38 This is the first and great commandment.**

**39 And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’**

**40 On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”**

The Lord Jesus, in response to the lawyer’s question about the great commandment

Now, Romans 5:5 declares that we have been given the love of God by the Holy Spirit to love Him and to love others.



## Loving God

**John 14:15**

**"If you love Me, keep My commandments.**

**1 John 5:3**

**For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.**

*Keep – to observe, guard, maintain*

When we obey God and keep His commands, we are truly expressing our love for God. Yes, we can say, sing, write poetry about loving God but, when we observe, guard, maintain and obey His commands, we are telling God that we love Him.

## Loving others

**1 John 4:11 The Passion Translation (TPT)**

**Delightfully loved ones, if he loved us with such tremendous love, then "loving one another" should be our way of life!**

**1 Corinthians 13:4-7 The Passion Translation (TPT)**

**4 Love is large and incredibly patient. Love is gentle and consistently kind to all. It refuses to be jealous when blessing comes to someone else. Love does not brag about one's achievements nor inflate its own importance.**

**5 Love does not traffic in shame and disrespect, nor selfishly seek its own honour. Love is not easily irritated or quick to take offense.**

**6 Love joyfully celebrates honesty and finds no delight in what is wrong.**

**7 Love is a safe place of shelter, for it never stops believing the best for others. Love never takes failure as defeat, for it never gives up.**

## Conclusion:

### Add to your faith

1. Character (virtue)
2. Knowledge (Spiritual understanding, Renewed mind)
3. Discipline (Self-Control, Temperance)
4. Endurance (Perseverance, Patience)
5. Godliness (Purity, Reverence)
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## LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

**Sunday March 03, 2024**  
**Add To Your Faith**

This is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

### **Preparation**

To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon Key Points (sermon summary in five minutes) or the full-length Sunday sermon. You can also review the Sunday Sermon notes. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at our [sermons page](#). Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

### **Welcome**

The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship, and a fun activity.

### **LISTEN to God's Word**

Read the following Scripture references: *2 Peter 1:1-15*

### **INVESTIGATE God's Word Together**

Please discuss a few of these together, giving time for people to share their insights. We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group discussion.

*1, Why is it important for a believer to add (grow, develop) these 7 attributes to one's faith?*

*2, What would happen if a believer did not add (grow, develop) these 7 to one's faith?*

*3, Share your personal learnings and take-aways from this message*



If time permits, each one can take a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two key learning and how they see themselves applying it into their specific life situations. Encourage each one to participate and share.

**FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey**

Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

**ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another**

Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for:

*1, families to be protected and strengthened*

*2, a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on us as a church and through us to bless many others in our city and nation. Nothing but a mighty work of God's Spirit can change our city and nation.*

*3, for the BUILD TO IMPACT project - for God's hand to guide us through the land search and acquisition process, and for finances to be more than enough to get this project done.*

Close by thanking God together.



## USEFUL RESOURCES

Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.

**YOUTUBE:** <https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore>

**WEBSITE:** <https://apcwo.org/live>

Our other websites and free resources:

**CHURCH:** <https://apcwo.org>

**FREE SERMONS:** <https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons>

**FREE BOOKS:** <https://apcwo.org/books/english>

**DAILY DEVOTIONALS:** <https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional>

**JESUS CHRIST:** <https://examiningjesus.com>

**BIBLE COLLEGE:** <https://apcbiblecollege.org>

**E-LEARNING:** <https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn>

**WEEKEND SCHOOLS:** <https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools>

**COUNSELING:** <https://chrysalislife.org>

**MUSIC:** <https://apcmusic.org>

**MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP:** <https://pamfi.org>

**CHURCH APP:** <https://apcwo.org/app>

**CHURCHES:** <https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches>

**WORLD MISSIONS:** <https://apcworldmissions.org>

### SERMON OUTLINE

The Apostle Peter saw the Lord Jesus minister in signs, wonders and miracles. Peter himself ministered in the supernatural in the name of the Lord Jesus and by faith in Him. This sermon is a study on Peter's very important message to the church towards the end of his life about adding to one's faith. He lists 7 attributes that are essential for any believer in order to continue strong in the Lord, be fruitful in life, avoid spiritual burnout and not stumble.

### KEYWORDS

Character, virtue, knowledge, renewed mind, discipline, Self-Control, temperance, endurance, perseverance, Patience, Godliness, Purity, reverence, kindness, fellowship, love, sermon, sermons, sermon notes, sermon outline, free sermon notes, free sermon outlines, Bible study resources

### REFERENCES/CITATIONS

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