

“ADD TO YOUR FAITH”

INTRODUCTION

A. 2nd Peter 1:2-8

With the goal of partaking of the divine nature, because we have escaped worldly corruption, it is imperative – “*for this very reason*” (4) – to add to faith.

B. Luke 1:39

What we do in this regard is to be done with “*all diligence*” (2nd Peter 1:5).

This doesn't just mean a concerted effort; it's that and more. Haste is implied.

We need to hurry toward this goal.

I. FAITH

A. Hebrews 11:6

There is no pleasing God apart from faith.

B. Hebrews 11:1; 2nd Corinthians 5:7

Faith means trusting in that which cannot be observed.

C. Romans 10:17

Faith is imparted through the hearing of the word.

D. James 2:24

Faith alone can do no good. It must be accompanied by action!

II. VIRTUE

A. 2nd Peter 1:3

Since God has called us by His own virtue, it is right that we respond to that call with virtue.

B. Philippians 4:8

Virtue demands setting our minds on true, noble, just, pure, lovely, and reputable thoughts.

III. KNOWLEDGE

A. **Hosea 4:6; Acts 17:30**

Ignorance is not acceptable. God demands we know His will.

B. **2nd Peter 3:18; 1st Peter 2:2**

We are obligated to grow in knowledge and we need the word to do that.

IV. SELF-CONTROL

A. **Galatians 5:19-23**

Being part of the "*fruit of the Spirit*," self-control prevents falling into the "*works of the flesh*" which keeps souls from the kingdom of God.

B. **Acts 24:25**

This is an absolutely fundamental tenet of the gospel, such that it ought to be taught to those not yet saved. Even so, it instills fear in outsiders, for it is not easily acquired.

C. **1st Corinthians 9:24-27**

If we are willing to practice personal discipline for physical improvement, how much more ought we to pursue it for spiritual gain!

V. PERSEVERANCE

A. **James 1:2-4; 1st Peter 2:19-21**

This quality does not come to us without testing, but without it we are incomplete.

B. **1st Corinthians 13:7**

Enduring all things is evidence of love.

C. **James 5:7-11**

We have stellar examples from old who can teach us perseverance.

VI. GODLINESS

A. **1st Timothy 3:16**

There are certain essential facts of piety, that is godliness, which we must assent to.

B. 2nd Timothy 3:1-5

Not everything that appears godly actually is.

C. 2nd Peter 1:2-3; 1st Timothy 6:3-4

All that is needed for true godliness has been provided by Jesus.

VII. BROTHERLY KINDNESS

A. 1st Peter 1:22

It is an outgrowth of salvation that we would demonstrate this quality.

B. Romans 12:10

Brotherly kindness requires preference is placed upon the brethren. Don't deceive yourself with the old "I love him; I just don't like him" lie. Brotherly kindness includes "*affection.*"

C. Hebrews 13:1-3

Loving the brethren includes hospitality toward those we do not yet know and consideration toward those undergoing persecution.

VIII. LOVE

A. Colossians 3:14

Love is what holds everything together. Without it, our faith falls apart.

B. 1st Corinthians 13:1-8_a, 13

The necessity of love is manifest as are its characteristics.

C. Matthew 22:37-40; 5:43-48

There are no limits on whom we are to love. It is through love that we can fulfill all of God's commands and be like Him.

CONCLUSION

A. 2nd Peter 1:9

Lacking the foregoing qualities indicates we have strayed from salvation from sins.

B. 2nd Peter 1:10-11

Acquiring and maintaining these things keeps us from straying and assures us of eternal salvation in heaven.