

## II Peter: Lesson #83 – Add To Your Faith

### Notes for Parents to Study With Their Children

### For Wednesday, Mar. 18<sup>th</sup>

Read II Pet. 1:1-11 (a simplified explanation of the text will be supplied at the end of these notes).

**Memory Verse:** II Pet. 1:10 “Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble.”

#### Peter’s Second Letter

- The Apostle Peter is writing a second letter (II Pet. 3:1). Peter says that he knows that he won’t live much longer and wants to write to Christians about what they need to do to serve God. After he died, he knew they would be able to read and know what he had said.
- Peter talks about their faith in God and Jesus Christ, and reminds them how valuable their faith is. When we know something is very valuable, we take better care of it. Peter wanted them to keep their faith, and not lose it.

#### Good Things Need to Keep Increasing in Our Lives

- Peter knew they already were Christians and knew about God and Jesus, but he wanted them to keep growing. He wanted them to increase in...
  - Grace – that mean’s in God’s favor. They should keep striving to please God.
  - Peace – they needed to live in a peaceful way. They needed to be at peace with God and with other people. When things are peaceful we can enjoy life more.
  - Knowledge – a better understanding of what God wants us to do. This is why we have Bible class, so that we will understand more of God’s Word. God’s Word has told us everything we need to know to be faithful to God and live our lives for Him. God’s Word tells us what we need to do to escape the bad things in the world. God’s Word will help us become more like what God is. Of course, we won’t become God, but we can live more like His ways.

#### Add to Your Faith

- I hope you believe in God and believe that Jesus is God’s Son. I hope you feel like you can trust them with your life, trust them enough to obey them. Believing is good, but it is not just enough to believe. Peter says we have to add things to our faith. He gives us a list of the things we must add:
  - To your faith you must add **moral excellence**. That means you try to live in a very good way. You want to live the best you can for God. In school excellence is making straight A’s. You might say, we should be trying to make straight A’s with God.
  - And to moral excellence you will need to add **knowledge**. We should want to be good and do good, but we have to know what God wants us to do. That’s why we

study His Word. We need more knowledge of what it teaches so that we will know the right things to do.

- And to knowledge you will need to learn to **control yourself**. We can know what God's Word says, but that will only help us if we are willing to control our lives. We have to put into practice what God's Word says. You can know it is wrong to get angry, but until we learn to control that anger, God's Word can't help us.
- And to self-control you must add in **the ability to endure** even if it difficult. What good does it do to start obeying God's Word if we aren't going to keep doing it? Endurance is what a runner has to have when they have run a long way, but still have a long way to go to before they get to the finish line. Endurance means they make themselves keep going, even when it gets hard.
- And to your endurance you must add a **reverence for God**. As we keep adding more things, we have to remember why we are doing all this. We do it because we are trying to obey God. We are just trying to be better people, we are trying to be people that please God and show Him the respect He deserves.
- And to your reverential worship supply the quality of **brotherly love**. God doesn't just want us to love Him. He also wants us to love each other. We should work at being good and kind to each other and not act mean. We should treat each other like we are members of the same family.
- And to brotherly love must be added the greatest kind of **love** that is selfless, sacrificial, and is practiced no matter how you've been treated by others. This is the greatest kind of love. It is the love God showed when He sent Jesus to die for us. We should like other people and be kind, but even more we should be willing to love other people when they haven't always been good to us.

### **Doing These Things Will Keep Us From Falling**

- Those were all wonderful things we need to add to our faith. Now as you grow up, I hope you will have two goals:
  1. Make sure that you do add those things to your faith. Practice each one of those things so that as God looks at your life He can see that you really are that kind of person.
  2. Make sure that each one of those things is increasing in your life. Work at doing them better and better.
- If we will do those two things, then some great things will happen in our lives.
  - God will think we are fruitful. That means that God will see us growing what He wanted in our lives. If you planted an apple tree, you would want it to grow apples. If it didn't you wouldn't be very happy with it. God wants us to grow good fruit in our lives.
  - We will not stumble and fall. These things will help us not to get "tripped up" in our walk with God. There is no reason we have to fall away from God. We can keep growing and pleasing Him.
  - We will have heaven. We will have lived our lives so that we can one day be part of God's heavenly kingdom. That is a wonderful place where we will live forever.

## **Simplified Explanation of the Text**

### **Peter Writes a Second Letter**

1:1 Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who have received a faith every bit as valuable and cherished as ours is, for it is in the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ.

### **Grow in Grace, Peace and Knowledge of God and Jesus**

2 May grace and peace increase more and more in your life in a greater knowledge of God and Jesus our Lord.

3 Through that true knowledge, we were called for His own glory and excellence. Just as His divine power has generously given us everything we need to live our lives and respectfully worship God.

4 Through this knowledge the Lord has generously given us the very greatest and most valuable promises so that we could become sharers in the kind of nature God has. The world's lusts have caused it to rot and decay, but God's wonderful promises have helped us to escape from the world to have a part in His divine qualities.

### **Add To Your Faith**

5 God has done His part in giving You the knowledge, and because of this you must now get busy adding in all your part.

To your faith you must provide generous amounts of moral excellence.

And to moral excellence you will need to add knowledge.

6 And to knowledge you will need to learn to control yourself.

And to self-control you must add in the ability to endure even if it difficult.

And to your endurance you must add an appropriate reverence and worship of God.

7 And to your reverential worship supply the quality of brotherly love.

And to brotherly love must be added the greatest kind of love – a love that is selfless, sacrificial, and is practiced no matter how you've been treated by others.

### **Doing These Things Will Keep Us From Falling**

8 For if these qualities have become your qualities, and they continue to increase, they will bring you to a point that you are no longer unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

9 But those who don't have these qualities can't see clearly. They see only what is right before them, but don't see what is in the distance. They've lost sight of why they were cleansed from their old sins.

10 So because of this, brethren, work even harder to make sure you are walking on solid ground, for doing these things means you will never stumble or fall.

11 Because in this way an entrance into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be richly provided for you