

## 2 Peter 1:5-11 Lavish Faith

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.

**Intro: When A Baby Comes into this world it has been given everything Physically that he/she needs to function as a human being –**

A)Brain – eyes, ears, arms, legs, hands, feet

B)A healthy baby has everything it needs to be a functioning Human

1) it just needs to learn to use what been given

**C) Grow and develop the brain – eyes – arms legs**

1)Muscles get stronger –

D)The Same is true in the Christian life – Born again – You have everything you need – vibrant fruitful

1)to have a victorious walk with Jesus

**The key is to learn to use and develop what we have been given**

A)Last week – We have been supplied

B)V.3 Divine Power – Holy Spirit *Given us in Christ all that we need that pertains to life & Godliness*

1)Life – real life – godliness – Christlikeness

C)Divine Promises – Exceedingly great and precious

D)A Divine nature

E)All connected to our growing in our Knowledge and experience of who Jesus is –

1)what he has done – who we are in Him

**Today we come to v.5 – Building off this idea – You have been supplied**

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.

**A)Now this almost seems paradoxical, because Peter says, "God gives you everything you need," and then he says, "Now add to that."**

B)So you wonder, "**How could you add anything to everything?"**

C)The Answer is simple - Growth takes cooperation.  
➤ I must have a cooperation with God's operation.

D)I am involved in this process. Christian growth doesn't happen by accident – not passive – it is deliberate and intentional

**GIVING ALL DILIGENCE** - take seriously / put forth the effort / make it a priority – Active priority and maximum effort

A)But understand the word add = Lavishly Supply – your faith with what has been given to you

B)this word add or lavishly supply - was used in that day for the production of the Greek plays!

**C) A play would be written – but like today – the play needed a financial backer –**

1) So a wealthy person would come along – read the script – and says let's do it

**D) He would lavishly supply – idea – hold nothing back – go for it! - Lets make this a Hit – the best play ever!**

E) That financial backer would supply the funds to make that play a success

**Well our Lord is the supplier – He is the backer – He has unlimited bank account – Divine Power, Divine Promises, Divine Nature**

A) Already told us given All we need for life & godliness

**B) Now He says take the resources & Lavishly supply your faith**

**Here is another analogy – Many of you ladies can relate to – as well as mom and dads.**

A) When our youngest daughter was like 8 years old she started planning for her wedding

B) Of all three of our kids – she was the most romantic fantasy oriented – Big dreams

C) One Problem – dad has 3 kids and a limited budget –

1) Now Scott and Amanda had a Great wedding at Green Oaks ranch in Vista

D) not the Ritz overlooking the Ocean in Laguna

**E) Today Scott and Amanda are very Talented Wedding Photographers**

1) Shoot weddings all over – flown places – destination

F) Some people are spending \$80-100K on their weddings

**So here is the picture: Planning your wedding**

**A) Dad is going to pay for the Wedding, RECEPTION & HONEYMOON** Your dad who is a Billionaire says

**B) Honey because I love you so much do whatever you want for your wedding reception & Honeymoon it is on me/ Hold back no expense**

**C) Well you are not going to shop at Pic & Save – not going to be worried about nickel and diming your way thru**

1) It is not going to put a dent in Dad's bank account – *David's Bridal*

**E) Honeymoon isn't going to be at the OCS**

**Motel Six** – More like Fiji that place over there – heard \$10,000 a night

**And when people come to the reception & they see all the beautiful decorations & fine China – They hear about your Honeymoon plans**

**A) Response is – YOUR DAD IS INCREDIBLE – AMAZING - I wish I had a Dad like that**

**B) So too when the world looks at a Christians life & sees how full we are**

1) See that **depth of Character** – and Joy in the midst of all kinds of Circumstances – response is –

2) **I wish I had a life like that**

C) That is what Peter is saying – *Take what God has made available in Christ & Lavishly supply your faith – don't hold back anything*

**1) LAVISHLY SUPPLY OR CLOTHE your faith in these things**

**D) Take what you have been given in Jesus and use that to make your faith strong – to make it the best!**

**Now lets take those two analogies – Play and the Wedding**

A) The play is being supplied by a wealthy backer – the wedding by a generous and rich father

**B) But in the play – the actors still have to do their part – learn lines – practice –**

1) The Musicians have to learn their pieces and practice to perfection –

C) The financial backer can't do that for them

**D) In the same way: Dad can provide for the Wedding of your dreams -you have to do the work –**

1) book the venue – caterers, etc.

**E) Spiritual growth takes Cooperation in God's Operation!**

Paul wrote the same thought but different words. Philippians 2:12,13 Paul **"Therefore, brethren, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God's who works in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure"**

A) Ever read that verse? Ever puzzled by it? "Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling,"

B) Note Salvation = Sanctification – growth being set apart – You work at that - But it is followed by this thought - **for it is God's who works in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure"**

C) God is working in you.

1) He gives you the power, he makes the promise, but you must work out your own Sanctification

D) By lavishly supplying your faith with what he has given to you.

**One more analogy - Like your muscles – you have them – given by God –**

A) But you have to work them out! – Develop them

B) I see older people – my Dad – strong – but as he got older – his muscles began to atrophy because he wasn't using them – **he couldn't – frustrating**

**C) You ALL have muscles – but those muscles are only evident in some of you**

1) Some have never developed their muscles – they are weak!

**I know Christians who experience – spiritual atrophy**

A) they quit using their spiritual muscles

B) They just quit walking by faith – just started cruising – playing it safe

1) Faith muscle begins to atrophy

C) I know other believers who have never developed their spiritual muscles

D) Allowing their lives to be defined by their past hurts – defined by bitterness – unforgiveness

1) That love muscle and trust muscles – never grows

E) Listen Same way we have to develop our Physical muscles by using them –

1) We develop our spiritual muscles of faith in the same way – but using them

**Ok let's move on – spent a lot of time – because I want you to get this: Peter says Do it with all diligence – lavishly supply**

A) Active priority and maximum effort - I am going to Cooperate in the Operation of God!

**B) Peter gives us 7 ways that we are to Lavishly supply our faith –**

1) note these seven traits flow together

C) And they are all connected to who Jesus is – and growing in the grace and knowledge of Jesus

**Lavishly supply your faith with Virtue: - Moral Excellence**

A) One way to look at excellence is something that fulfills the purpose for which it was made.

B) We have been made in the image of God – we are called to be image bearers of God

C) So we supply our faith with Moral excellence – by considering what were Jesus thoughts and ideas on that subject of morality ?

**D) Matthew 5-7 Sermon on the Mount - Moral excellence starts on the inside – starts with thought life**

1) You say – don't commit adultery – I say he who looks ... to lust – committed adultery in his heart

E) Don't murder! Being angry without cause – same thing

**Jesus takes morality to a whole different level –**

A) If we are going to Lavishly supply our lives with Moral excellence –

**B) We are going to approach the issues of Morality through the grid or the lens of what did Jesus say about that?**

1) What is his heart on that situation –

C) Not concerned so much about what culture says – what Does Jesus say – how does he think

1) then I am seeking to pray through that – and pray that into my life.

**So I am Lavishly supplying my faith with Virtue –**

A)By using the attitudes, heart and direction of Jesus to DEFINE what that looks like

B)Prayerfully Looking to his power and grace to work that into my life

C)Notice after Virtue – he mentions Knowledge – Lavishly supply your life with Knowledge

**This word Knowledge is epignósis, which means an expert knowledge,**

A)Knowledge practical, experiential, knowledge that comes from experience and is authentic –

B)not just a theory.-

1)A practical knowledge or knowledge that is lived out. -Experiencing the life of Jesus

C)This is now the Principle becomes a practice in my life

**D)I understand the principle – now by your grace and power Jesus – I am going to seek to walk in this!**

1)Believing – you are going to meet me –

E)Adding Virtue – Knowledge

**Self-control describes the inner strength to control one's desires and cravings**

A)You know, sometimes there's a huge gap between what we know (our knowledge), and what we do (our actions).

B)You know what will bridge that gap? Self-control.

C)Self-control" is a word that was a Greek word that means to hold oneself together.

1)It spoke of an athlete who would say no to eating certain kinds of food

2)Who would say yes to certain kinds of training because he wanted to win a race

D)Christian growth takes discipline - Learning to resist the flesh walk in the spirit

**Perseverance in its most literal rendering means "to walk under the load."**

A)This tells us that Christian growth doesn't just take discipline – but at times it is NOT going to be easy!

**B)There is a certain grind to the Christian life – times where we just have to bear up under the trial,**

1)or the hardship, the difficult circumstance. "Hang in there." – stay the course

C)No Short cuts to spiritual growth – don't get impatient –

**Now the first 4 traits that Peter mentions focus on the inner man – heart stuff**

A)The next three are outer – relate to how we treat others

B)Reason: Virtue, Knowledge, self-control, perseverance are first –

1)we have to first BE – before we can DO

C)Growing in Jesus – developing the mind and heart of Jesus is going to affect how we treat others

**Next he mentions godliness – literally godlikeness**

A)It is a word that describes being right with God – Vertical – **and being right with people – the Horizontal**

B)Seeing others with God's heart and treating them that way!

C)That naturally leads to Brotherly kindness idea of "bearing one another's burdens,

D)Being more others centered than self-centered!

**Flows right into Lavishly supply your faith with Love –**

A)Love here is the word Agape – highest form of love

B)Love that is sacrificial - a deliberate desire for the highest good of the person loved. It demonstrates itself in sacrificial action for that person's good.

C)Agape love is the love of the cross. It is sacrificial love!

1)Seeks nothing in return

**Romans 8:29 – God’s end game – Conform you into the image of Jesus**

A) Not to make you a better version of you – but make you more like Jesus

B) Song: A little less like me and a little more like Jesus

C) Peter is giving us the target – here is what it looks like – growing in these traits

D) These attributes of Jesus begin to be seen in our lives – as we have Cooperation in the operation of God!

**The Result: 4 things V.8-10**

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

A) #1 V.8 Fruitful – not barren! Goal John 15 bear much fruit

B) <sup>8</sup> By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples. John 15:8

C) Fruit = Christlike Character – your life impacts the lives of others for the Kingdom of God

1) #1 Result Fruitfulness

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

A) #2 You will be Focused – not shortsighted

B) The word **shortsighted or nearsighted** - describes the person who Can't see things at a distance

1) It describes the man who can only see what is immediately in front of him /

C) IT is the man / woman only concerned w/ temporal things

1) The person who can't see the BIG PICTURE

**The opposite is true of the person who is lavishly supplying their faith in this way:-**

A) Your life will be focused – it will have purpose

B) You will know that you are saved – sins have been cleansed and why

C) You have a purpose in the plan of God.

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

A) #3 You will be Firm footed – not stumbling around – not unsure in your faith

B) Ever think you missed the rapture? – I did –

C) Growing in this way – becoming strong – building up your muscles – your calling and election is sure –

1) Evidence of Jesus in your life

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

A) #4 You will be Fulfilled – Abundant entrance –

B) Not just **Purpose here** / active here / **fruitful here**/ but **blessed there**

C) All Christians are going to **end up in heaven** – thru the work of Christ

D) But our capacity to enjoy Heaven is going to be based on what we do here –

1) All full – some like a Dixie cup / others 32oz big gulp / others 55 gallon drum

**You want to have an Abundant Entrance?**

A) Take the resources that have been given and lavishly supply your faith – keep growing!

B) Close with this: I read about a man who decided to go across the Atlantic Ocean in a small boat

C) A lot of people have tried to sail across and have done it.

1) But what made this remarkable, it was the smallest boat ever to go across the Atlantic Ocean.

D) It was only thirteen feet long. Can you imagine?

1) That's like a surfboard, thirteen feet long. He called it Tinkerbelle.

The guy's name was Robert Manry. It took him seventy-eight days.

A) He said his rudder broke several times. He was washed overboard several times.

B) Sometimes the shipping lanes were so bad, he couldn't sleep – he had to stay awake for days on end because it was too dangerous

C) He took the rope and bound himself to the boat so he'd stay on it.

**Well after 78 days he could see the shores of England.**

A) The only thing that went through his mind is, **"I need a hotel room, I need a shower, and I need to sleep for like a week or so."**

B) He was just so discouraged, so tired.

C) But as he was nearing the shore, there were three hundred other boats there to welcome him to shore.

1) And when he got to shore, there were 40,000 people in a crowd cheering him on for making the journey successfully.

**At that moment a shift happened in his Psyche - he was no longer thinking about how tired he was.**

A) He wasn't thinking about how discouraged he was. He wasn't thinking about a shower!

B) He felt so good.

C) When you stand in heaven and that crown goes on your head, you will never regret the hours you spent in Bible study or prayer

1) or sharing your faith or helping another person grow or working hard to build up somebody else.

**D) You are going to hear Jesus say – Well done good and faithful servant – enter into the Joy of the Lord**

**Peter is saying: Knowing what is coming – should motivate us now to Cooperate in the operation of God – Lavishly supply our faith**

A) GO FOR IT!

B) Before you can Supply your faith you need to be in the faith

C) You have been made in the image of God –

**Relationships - #1 With God through Jesus**

A) Starting place today – FAITH IN JESUS