

2 Peter 1:5-9

⁵For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith virtue; and to virtue, knowledge; ⁶and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; ⁷and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. ⁸For if you possess these qualities and continue to grow in them, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹But whoever lacks these traits is nearsighted to the point of blindness, having forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins.

Berean Study Bible

⁵ And indeed, with all diligence,
simultaneously add into your faith, excellence;
and into excellence, knowledge;
⁶ and into knowledge; self-control;
and into self-control, endurance;
and into endurance, devotion;
⁷ and into devotion, family affection;
and into family affection, love.

⁸ For, with you possessing, and abounding, in these
you will be neither ineffective nor unproductive
in the rich knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁹ Whoever is lacking these is blind,
being so short-sighted, oblivious to what has been received;
cleansing of their past sins.

My translation

1

The life of faith. 2 Peter 1:5-9

The logic of a life of faith. 1:4-5a

My reason. 5a "For this very reason"

My responsibility. 5a "make every effort"

The labour of a life of faith. 1:5-7

My addition. 5b "add to your faith"

My advantages. 5-7 "and to.. and to..."

Those who limit the life of faith. 1:8

My progress. 8a "continue to grow"

My productivity. 8b "keep you from"

Those who lack the tools of faith. 1:9
Cannot see the future. "nearsighted... blindness"
Cannot see the past. "forgotten... cleansed"

2

It all adds up. 2 Peter 1:5-9

What I add to my faith. 1:5-7
From above to within. 5 "faith... virtue... knowledge"
From within to throughout. 5-6 "self-control... perseverance... Godliness"
From throughout to without. 7 "brotherly kindness... love"

What are the advantages of my faith. 1:8
High. 8a "possess these qualities"
Higher. 8b "continue to grow in them"
Highest. 8c "our Lord Jesus Christ"

What I avoid in my faith. 1:9
Thank God for your insight. 9a "nearsighted to the point of blindness"
Thank God for your memory. 9b "forgotten that he has been cleansed"

3

Have a faith worth having. 2 Peter 1:5-9

How to have an intelligent faith. 1:5
Look for the logic of faith. 5a "For this very reason"
Look for the logistics of faith. 5a "make every effort to add to your faith"

How to increase from your faith. 1:5-7
Expanding diversity. 5-7 "add to" (starts within)
Expanding direction. 5-7 "add to" (increasingly external)

How to have an integrated faith. 1:8-9
Possess your new life. 8 "possess these qualities"
Progress your new life. 8 "continue to grow in them"

4

Developing the best spiritual life. 2 Peter 1:5-9

Personal development. 1:5-7

Go strong. 5a “make every effort”

Go long. 5b “add to”

Purpose of development. 1:8

Go deep. 8b “effective”

Go wide. 8b “productive”

Practical development. 1:9

Go farther. 9a cp. “nearsighted”

Go faster. 9b “been cleansed”

5

Don't settle for second-best. 2 Peter 1:5-9

Want it. 1:5

Faith is reasonable. 5a “reason”

Faith is responsible. 5a “effort to add”

Get it. 1:5-7

Begin with the basics. 5 “add to your faith”

Build on the basics. 5-7 “and to... and to...”

Have it. 1:8

Look what I've already got. 8a “possess these qualities”

Look what I and yet to get. 8a “and continue to grow”

Keep it. 1:9

Look ahead. 9a cp. “nearsighted”

Look behind. 9b “cleansed from past sins”

6

Seven steps to maturity. 2 Peter 1:5-9

1. faith. 5

2. virtue. 5

3. knowledge. 6

4. self-control. 6

5. perseverance. 6

6. godliness. 7

7. brotherly kindness. 7

8. love. 7

Grow up. 2 Peter 1:5-9

What Christians do to grow. 1:5-7

Why Christians choose to grow. 1:8

Or else Christians won't grow. 1:9

Other possible titles

Better than belief

What comes after salvation

Can you Plus 7

This is how you grow up

Ever upward

No pain; no gain.

Quotes and illustrations

All growth that is not toward God is growing to decay. George Macdonald

A state of mind that sees God in everything is evidence of growth in grace and a thankful heart. Charles Finney

Growth is the only evidence of life. John Henry Newman

If a man does not exercise his arm, he develops no biceps muscle; and if a man does not exercise his soul, he acquires no muscle in his soul, no strength of character, no vigour of moral fiber, nor beauty of Spiritual growth. Henry Drummond

If the amount of energy lost in trying to grow were spent in fulfilling rather the conditions of growth, we should have many more cubits to show for our stature. Henry Drummond

Spiritual growth depends on two things: first a willingness to live according to the Word of God; second, a willingness to take whatever consequences emerge as a result. Sinclair B Ferguson

A Christian's real development in spiritual life will always be revealed by how he or she thinks about God - how much he thinks about Him, and how highly he thinks about Him. Sinclair B Ferguson

There is no growth without change, no change without fear or loss and no loss without pain. Rick Warren

Becoming like Christ is a long, slow process of growth. Rick Warren

It is not the number of books you read, nor the variety of sermons you hear, nor the amount of religious conversation in which you mix, but it is the frequency and earnestness with which you meditate on these things till the truth in them becomes your own and part of your being, that ensures your growth. Frederick W Robertson

The stiff and wooden quality about our religious lives is a result of our lack of holy desire. Complacency is a deadly foe of all spiritual growth. Acute desire must be present or there will be no manifestation of Christ to His people. A W Tozer

The fatal metaphor of progress, which means leaving things behind us, has utterly obscured the real idea of growth, which means leaving the things inside us. GK Chesterton

Each stage of the believer's walk possesses its particular hazard. The new life within us wages a constant war against all which opposes its growth. During the physical stage, it is a war against sins; in the soulish phase, it is a battle against the natural life; and lastly, on the spiritual level, it is an onslaught against the supernatural enemy. Watchman Nee

Gradual growth in grace, growth in knowledge, growth in faith, growth in love, growth in holiness, growth in humility, growth in spiritual-mindedness - all this I see clearly taught and urged in Scripture, and clearly exemplified in the lives of many of God's saints. But sudden, instantaneous leaps from conversion to consecration I fail to see in the Bible. J C Ryle

The ways, and fashions, and amusements, and recreations of the world have a continually decreasing place in the heart of a growing Christian. He does not condemn them as downright sinful, nor say that those who have anything to do with them are going to hell. He only feels they have a constantly diminishing hold on his own affections and gradually seem smaller and more trifling in his eyes. J C Ryle

Just as the sinner's despair of any hope from himself is the first prerequisite of a sound conversion, so the loss of all confidence in himself is the first essential in the believer's growth in grace. A W Pink

The Christian who has stopped repenting has stopped growing. A W Pink

Adversity is not simply a tool. It is God's most effective tool for the advancement of our spiritual lives. The circumstances and events that we see as setbacks are oftentimes the very things that launch us into periods of intense spiritual growth. Once we begin to understand this, and accept it as a spiritual fact of life, adversity becomes easier to bear. Charles Stanley

Music and songs

Songs about "adding to". 5a

Change my heart O God. 482

I want to praise You Lord much more than I do. Ot 70 / MiS 9

"Lord, I want to love You more" (The Cathedrals)

Out on a limb (Scott Wesley Brown)
The greatest thing in all my life. 436

Songs about the qualities we possess. 8a

A new mind. Ot 104
Greatly blessed; highly favoured. Ot 96
Love the Lord your God with all your heart... soul... mind. Ot19
Love incarnate. "I will feed... I will stand up..." Ot 38
To the overcomers (Michael Card)

Songs about being effective and productive. 8b

Brother, sister, let me serve you. SiS 256
Live for the Kingdom. Ot 15
Lord, show me what it means to have a humble heart. 413
Salt and light. Ot 113
They will know we are Christians by our love. Ot 25
We can make a difference. Ot 114
Workers' prayer. "Before You I kneel" Ot 98

Songs about blindness to sight. 9a

Amazing grace "I once was blind but now I see" 401
Amazing grace, my chains are gone. 1067
People to people. "How do you share... those who are blind without Jesus" 88
Tower of strength. "He made me walk... he was blind, he could not see" Ot 102

Thought starters for personal reflection or group discussion

1. When, or how, or where, did you first become aware of the beginnings of faith in your own life?
 2. This Scripture begins with "reason" (v5). Why do you think the Bible makes a direct connection between logic and faith?
 3. Look at the list of traits in v5-7. Which of these is most evident in you; and which of these do you most need to "add"?
 4. We already have all these traits (2 Peter 1:3). So, how do we now Possess them; and how do we Progress them in our own lives?
 5. How does the promise, in the beginning of v8, prevent the problem, in the end of v8?
 6. In what ways does memory of our past (v9) help prepare us for our future?
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