

Adding To Our Faith - 2 Peter 1:1-11

Intro:

- A. I ask this question of all - “DO YOU WANT TO GO TO HEAVEN?” - each and every day we are faced with those who were here that are no longer with us, some returning to the world of sin, some have moved, others have ended their journey in this life. We also have seen new faces, new brethren added thru baptism and a stronger faithfulness.
1. One thing for sure is that every day brings about a challenge and a new day for us to be stronger today than we were yesterday.
 2. It is certainly a truth today as it is each day that the Lord blesses us to wake up and face another day to bring glory to His name, that we as Christians are faced with the challenges of examining ourselves as to whether we are in the faith, and whether we are growing in the knowledge and grace of our Lord - daily.
- B. When we look at the **Text 2 Peter 1:1-11** - Verse 5 starts by saying “add to your faith” and verse 8 - says that if these are yours you will be neither barren nor unfruitful.
1. **I believe that I can say with certainty** - that those who truly want to go to Heaven realize:
 - a. Recognize the need to grow -
 - b. Have a desire to grow –
 - c. Acknowledge a need for assistance to grow
 2. **Spiritual growth is a divine** requirement for every believer - (We are free moral agents)
 3. The **Word of God is the divine provision** for spiritual growth.
 4. We **never stay the same** – we are either growing spiritually – or we are growing weaker!
- C. As we look at the **Text 2 Peter 1:1-11**
1. **2 Peter 1:1-11** (NKJV) ---- 1 Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have **obtained like precious faith (1)** 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 (2)** who called us by glory and virtue, 4 by which have been given to us **exceedingly great and precious promises (3)**, that through these you may be **partakers of the divine nature (4)**, having **escaped the corruption (5)** 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 **(1) your call and election sure**, for **(2) if you do these things you will never stumble**; 11 for so an **(3) entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom** of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
 2. From **this we must note:**
 - a. God has given us what we need to grow into fruitful Christians - **(1:1-4)**
 - b. Great effort is required on our part in order to be fruitful Christians - **(1:5,10)**
 - c. The reward - security & entrance into God’s everlasting kingdom - **(1:8,11)**
 - d. If we fail to grow we will fall & be in danger of being eternally lost - **(1:9; 2:20-22)**
- D. Let us now look at God’s supply to make us stronger Christians.

II. Understanding the Text begins with understanding that this is hard work:

A. Giving All Diligence

1. **Diligence** – **Heb. 6:11; 2 Pet. 1:5,10**

- a. **Hebrews 6:11** (NKJV) - 11 And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end,
- b. **2 Peter 1:5** (NKJV) - 5 But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge,
- c. **2 Peter 1:10** (NKJV) - 10 Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble;
2. **Purpose** – Mature Christians do not just happen - they are made - **Jos. 24:15; Matt. 6:33**
 - a. **Joshua 24:15** (NKJV) - 15 And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”
 - b. **Matthew 6:33** (NKJV) - 33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.
3. **Commitment** – Can’t be double minded - **1 Kings 18:21; Acts 11:23**
 - a. **1 Kings 18:21** (NKJV) - 21 And Elijah came to all the people, and said, “How long will you falter between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him.” But the people answered him not a word.
 - b. **Acts 11:23** (NKJV) - 23 When he came and had seen the grace of God, he was glad, and encouraged them all that with purpose of heart they should continue with the Lord.
4. **Continued pursuit** – No shortcuts - Takes time, great effort and patience - **1 Cor. 15:58; Col. 1:23**
 - a. **1 Corinthians 15:58** (NKJV) - 58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.
 - b. **Colossians 1:23** (NKJV) - 23 if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.
- B. **Add To** – ἐπιχορηγῶ - epichorēgō
 1. **To supply, furnish, to minister unto** – [Vines; Thayer; BDAG] - **1:11; 2 Cor. 9:10; Gal. 3:5; Col. 2:19**
 - a. **2 Corinthians 9:10** (NKJV) - 10 Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness,
 - b. **Galatians 3:5** (NKJV) - 5 Therefore He who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you, does He do it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?
 - c. **Colossians 2:19** (NKJV) - 19 and not holding fast to the Head, from whom all the body, nourished and knit together by joints and ligaments, grows with the increase that is from God.
 2. **The verb rendered add** (ἐπιχορηγῶσατε) is derived from χορηγῶ a chorus, . . . The verb originally means to bear the expense of a chorus . . . In the NT sense of supplying or providing.

III. **There are SEVEN ATTRIBUTES THAT WE MUST ADD TO OUR FAITH**

- A. **THE FAITH** that brought us to obedience in the waters of baptism is not sufficient to get us to HEAVEN our goal, unless we physically die in the waters of baptism. As we arise in the newness of life we face the challenges to our faith each and every day.
 1. **Add To Your Faith** – **Heb. 11:1; Rom. 10:17**
 - a. **Hebrews 11:1** (NKJV) - 1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.
 - b. **Romans 10:17** (NKJV) - 17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of

God.

2. **Faith is the foundation** - **Heb. 11:1, 6**
 - a. **Hebrews 11:1** (NKJV) - 1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.
 - b. **Hebrews 11:6** (NKJV) - 6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.
 3. **Faith is the motivation** - **2 Cor. 5:7; Gal 2:20**
 - a. **2 Corinthians 5:7** (NKJV) - 7 For we walk by faith, not by sight.
 - b. **Galatians 2:20** (NKJV) - 20 I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.
 4. **Faith should grow** - **Luke 17:5; 2 Thess. 1:3; Rom. 10:17**
 - a. **Luke 17:5** (NKJV) - 5 And the apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith."
 - b. **2 Thessalonians 1:3** (NKJV) - 3 We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you all abounds toward each other,
 - c. **Romans 10:17** (NKJV) - 17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.
- B. **Add Virtue** – **2 Pet 1:3; Phil 4:8**
1. **2 Peter 1:3** (NKJV) - 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,
 - a. **Philippians 4:8** (NKJV) - 8 Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.
 - b. Defined as moral excellence - Moral power, moral energy, vigor of soul (Bengel)
 - c. "Bring the finest character to your commitment" [BDAG]
 2. **A holy nation** - called out of darkness into light - **1 Pet 2:9**
 - a. **1 Peter 2:9** (NKJV) - 9 But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;
- C. **Add Knowledge** – **Rom 15:14; 1 Cor. 1:5; 2 Cor 4:6**
1. **Romans 15:14** (NKJV) - 14 Now I myself am confident concerning you, my brethren, that you also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another.
 - a. **1 Corinthians 1:5** (NKJV) - 5 that you were enriched in everything by Him in all utterance and all knowledge,
 - b. **2 Corinthians 4:6** (NKJV) - 6 For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.
 - c. (gnōsin) Insight, understanding
 2. **Knowledge found in Christ** - **Eph 3:19; Col 2:3**
 - a. **Ephesians 3:19** (NKJV) - 19 to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.
 - b. **Colossians 2:3** (NKJV) - 3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.
 3. **Knowledge of His will** – **Phil. 3:8; 2 Pet 3:18; Acts 17:11,12; Eph 3:5 - Hos. 4:6; 1 Pet. 2:2; Heb. 5:12-14**
 - a. **Philippians 3:8** (NKJV) - 8 Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the

knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ

- b. **2 Peter 3:18** (NKJV) - 18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.
 - c. **Acts 17:11** (NKJV) - 11 These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.
 - (1) **Acts 17:12** (NKJV) - 12 Therefore many of them believed, and also not a few of the Greeks, prominent women as well as men.
 - d. **Ephesians 3:5** (NKJV) - 5 which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets:
 - e. **1 Peter 2:2** (NKJV) - 2 as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby,
 - f. **Hebrews 5:12-14** (NKJV) - 12 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. 13 For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. 14 But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.
- D. **Add Self Control – Gal 5:23; Acts 24:25**
1. **Galatians 5:23** (NKJV) - 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.
 - a. **Acts 24:25** (NKJV) - 25 Now as he reasoned about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and answered, “Go away for now; when I have a convenient time I will call for you.”
 - b. “Restraint of one's emotions, impulses, or desires, self-control” - [BDAG]
 2. **Need to be constantly in control** (thoughts, tongue, temper and actions) **Jas. 1:14; 1 Cor. 9:25-27; 2 Cor 10:5**
 - a. **James 1:14** (NKJV) - 14 But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed.
 - b. **1 Corinthians 9:25-27** (NKJV) - 25 And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. 26 Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. 27 But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.
 - c. **2 Corinthians 10:5** (NKJV) - 5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,
- E. **Add Perseverance – Jas. 1:2-4,13; Job; Jas. 5:11**
1. **James 1:2-4** (NKJV) - 2 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. 4 But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.
 - a. **James 1:13** (NKJV) - 13 Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone.
 - b. **James 5:11** (NKJV) - 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.
 - c. Capacity to hold out or bear up in the face of difficulty, patience, endurance, fortitude, steadfastness, perseverance [BDAG]

2. **Run with endurance** - **Acts 14:22; Rom 5:3; Heb. 10:36; 12:1-3, 6:12; James 5:7-8**
 - a. **Acts 14:22** (NKJV) - 22 strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, "We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God."
 - b. **Romans 5:3** (NKJV) - 3 And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance;
 - c. **Hebrews 10:36** (NKJV) - 36 For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise:
 - d. **Hebrews 12:1-3** (NKJV) - 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.
 - e. **Hebrews 6:12** (NKJV) - 12 that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.
 - f. **James 5:7-8** (NKJV) - 7 Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain. 8 You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.
- F. **Add Godliness** - **1:3; 3:11; Prov. 1:7; Psalm 112:1**
 1. **2 Peter 1:3** (NKJV) - 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,
 - a. **2 Peter 3:11** (NKJV) - 11 Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,
 - b. **Proverbs 1:7** (NKJV) - 7 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, But fools despise wisdom and instruction.
 - c. **Psalm 112:1** (NKJV) - 1 Praise the Lord! Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, Who delights greatly in His commandments.
 - d. "To be devout," denotes that piety which, characterized by a Godward attitude, does that which is well-pleasing to Him." - Vine's
 2. **Piety & Respect for God** - of greater value than anything in this world - **1 Tim 4:7,8; 6:6**
 - a. **1 Timothy 4:7** (NKJV) - 7 But reject profane and old wives' fables, and exercise yourself toward godliness.
 - (1) **1 Timothy 4:8** (NKJV) - 8 For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come.
 - b. **1 Timothy 6:6** (NKJV) - 6 Now godliness with contentment is great gain.
 3. **Our society is becoming more godless and immoral** - **2 Tim 3:1-5; 4:1-5**
 - a. **2 Timothy 3:1-5** (NKJV) - 1 But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: 2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3 unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, 4 traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!
 - b. **2 Timothy 4:1-5** (NKJV) - 1 I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: 2 Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according

to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; 4 and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. 5 But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

4. **In the judgment, our conduct and godliness will be all that is left - 2 Pet. 3:11; Rom 2:5-11; 2 Cor. 5:10**

- a. **2 Peter 3:11** (NKJV) - 11 Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,
- b. **Romans 2:5-11** (NKJV) - 5 But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, 6 who “will render to each one according to his deeds”: 7 eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality; 8 but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness—indignation and wrath, 9 tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek; 10 but glory, honor, and peace to everyone who works what is good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. 11 For there is no partiality with God.
- c. **2 Corinthians 5:10** (NKJV) - 10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

G. **Add Brotherly Kindness – Rom 12:10; 1 Thess 4:9; Hebrews 13:1; 1 Peter 1:22**

1. **Romans 12:10** (NKJV) - 10 Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another;
 - a. **1 Thessalonians 4:9** (NKJV) - 9 But concerning brotherly love you have no need that I should write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another;
 - b. **Hebrews 13:1** (NKJV) - 1 Let brotherly love continue.
 - c. **1 Peter 1:22** (NKJV) - 22 Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart,
2. **Loving and being kind to other Christians, (We ARE family) - John 13:34,35; 1 Pet. 1:22; Eph. 4:32**
 - a. **John 13:34** (NKJV) - 34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.
(1) **John 13:35** (NKJV) - 35 By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”
 - b. **1 Peter 1:22** (NKJV) - 22 Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart,
 - c. **Ephesians 4:32** (NKJV) - 32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.
3. **We should find ways to show this love! - Gal 6:10; 1 Thess. 4:10; 1 John 3:14-17**
 - a. **Galatians 6:10** (NKJV) - 10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.
 - b. **1 Thessalonians 4:10** (NKJV) - 10 and indeed you do so toward all the brethren who are in all Macedonia. But we urge you, brethren, that you increase more and more;
 - c. **1 John 3:14-17** (NKJV) - 14 We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death. 15 Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. 16 By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. 17 But whoever has this world’s goods, and sees his brother in need,

and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?

H. **Add Love** – **Rom 13:10; 1 Cor 13:1-8,13; 16:14;**

1. **Romans 13:10** (NKJV) - 10 Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.
 - a. **1 Corinthians 13:1-8** (NKJV) - 1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. 2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing. 4 Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; 5 does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; 6 does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; 7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 8 Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away.
 - b. **1 Corinthians 13:13** (NKJV) - 13 And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.
 - c. **1 Corinthians 16:14** (NKJV) - 14 Let all that you do be done with love.
2. **Seeks the best interest of its object because we value it** - **Rom 13:10; 5:8,9**
 - a. **Romans 13:10** (NKJV) - 10 Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.
 - (1) **Romans 5:8** (NKJV) - 8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
 - (a) **Romans 5:9** (NKJV) - 9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.
 - b. **As Christ loved us** - **Eph. 5:2** (NKJV) - 2 And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.
 - c. **Without love, anything we do profits nothing** - **1 Cor 13:1-8** (NKJV) - 1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. 2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing. 4 Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; 5 does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; 6 does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; 7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 8 Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away.
 - d. **Binds all qualities** - **Col 3:14** (NKJV) - 14 But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.
3. We are to love:
 - a. **God** - **Matt. 22:37** (NKJV) - 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.'
 - b. **Neighbor** - **Matt. 22:39** (NKJV) - 39 And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'
 - c. **Enemies** - **Matt. 5:44** (NKJV) - 44 But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,

d. **Wives, husbands, children - Eph. 5:25, Titus 2:4**

- (1) **Ephesians 5:25** (NKJV) - 25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,
- (2) **Titus 2:4** (NKJV) - 4 that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children,

IV. **In Conclusion:**

- A. God has given us what we need to grow into fruitful Christians - **(1:1-4)**
- B. Great effort is required on our part in order to be fruitful Christians - **(1:5,10)**
- C. The reward - security & entrance into God's everlasting kingdom - **(1:8,11)**
- D. If we fail to grow we will fall & be in danger of being eternally lost - **(1:9; 2:20-22)**
- E. Show circle of attributes!
- F. Remember **2 Peter 1:8** (NKJV) - 8 For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- G. Are you IN CHRIST? – Have you by faith repented – confessed – been baptized?
 1. Are you growing in Christ?
 2. **Colossians 1:9-18** (NKJV) - 9 For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; 10 that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; 11 strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; 12 giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. 13 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, 14 in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins. 15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. 17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. 18 And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

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¹ *The New King James Version*. Nashville : Thomas Nelson, 1982