

MY FAITH LEADS ME TO LABOR TO GROW

(2 Peter 1:5-10)

I. The commitment.

- a. In many ways, our obedience to the gospel is like the signing of a contract.
 - i. God has promised some things and, since He cannot lie, we know those that His end of the contract will be met.
 - ii. The real question is on our end: will we meet the expectations of the contract we made with God?
- b. We are to grow in faith, the faith that got us to the baptistery has to grow.
- c. This is not an easy process.
 - i. It takes labor on our part, something many don't like to give.
 - ii. There are two phrases in this passage that point out that labor.
 - iii. "Giving all diligence" (vs. 5) and "giving diligence" (vs. 10).
 - iv. The ESV says "make every effort" and "be all the more diligent".
- d. Both of those terms are labor intensive terms.
- e. The Christian life, in between the baptistery and pearly gates, is a life of labor and effort.
- f. James talks about those who don't do anything and says that their faith is dead.
- g. It takes that to gain the crown of heaven and we must be committed to the labor it takes to achieve it.

II. The cooperation.

- a. Peter now gives us seven virtues that must be added to our faith.
 - i. Remember, our faith got us into the baptistery.
 - ii. Now, we have to give our faith goals for which we must be striving.
 - iii. The ESV says, "For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with..."
- b. We do this in cooperation with the will of God.
- c. God wants us to have these things, and He has given us the tools necessary to have them in our lives, but we have to work to get them.
- d. The word translated "add" is interesting.
 - i. It is translated by some form of "minister to" in four other passages.
 - ii. It originally was a title for someone who would supply the needs of a choral group.
 - iii. This person would supply all that was necessary for the choral group to sing in the Greek plays.
- e. God has given us the ability to have these things, we must supply the desire and cooperate with God to have them.
- f. We are to have virtue, or moral excellence.

- i. The desire to do that which is morally right.
 - ii. God's word is the standard for this.
 - 1. We learn what God says is right and wrong.
 - 2. Our desire to please God leads us to do that which is right.
 - iii. We must supply the desire to do what is right.
- g. We are to have knowledge.
 - i. This is not just any knowledge, but a knowledge of God's word.
 - ii. God has given clear instructions and we are to know them.
 - iii. We have to give the time to God's word to acquire the knowledge.
- h. We are to have temperance, or self-control.
 - i. This is the ability to master one's self.
 - ii. We have to be able to reign in our sinful desires.
- i. We are to have patience, or endurance.
 - i. This is the ability to weather a storm.
 - ii. When faith is attacked, the Christian is able to persevere.
 - iii. Think of our Lord who steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem, knowing that was where He was going to die.
- j. We are to have godliness.
 - i. Bullinger, in his Greek word work, said this means, "real, true, vital, and spiritual relation with God."
 - ii. It is a life lived in front of others that shows you are unashamed of living for God.
 - iii. When we are godly, we are expressing to the world that we've been delivered from sin by God's grace.
- k. We are to have brotherly kindness.
 - i. We treat fellow Christians like family.
 - ii. We love them like family.
 - iii. This is one word translated from the "phileo" Greek word for brotherly love.
- l. Then, lastly, we are to have charity, or agape love.
 - i. This is the last because this is the hardest to supply.
 - ii. We have to really be with Jesus to know how to love like this.
- m. The only way to develop these seven virtues is by cooperating with God.
- n. We must follow His plan and His way of living.

III. The Consequences.

- a. If we stay true to our commitment we've made and cooperate with God in achieving possession of these seven virtues some things will happen.
- b. Our lives will be guided and guarded by true knowledge (2 Peter 1:8).
 - i. Peter again points out the need for true biblical knowledge.
 - ii. Our steps will be directed, which we all need.

- c. A profitable life will be lived (2 Peter 1:8).
 - i. If we are going to be useful to God, we must be those that bear fruit.
 - ii. Our Lord told us that we would be cut off and burned if we don't.
 - iii. True disciples are revealed because they produce fruit.
- d. We will be alarmed when things are going wrong (2 Peter 1:9).
 - i. This is a spiritual choice to be blind.
 - ii. When we shut our spiritual eyes, we act like we've forgotten our sins have been removed.
 - iii. This will alarm the Christian who really wants to honor the commitment he or she made when baptized.
- e. We will sincerely try to make our spiritual security sure (2 Peter 1:10).
 - i. There is always a possibility of being lost.
 - ii. However, if we are giving all diligence, laboring to add these virtues and grow them, we won't fall away.
 - iii. It's not because we will be sinless, but because we are doing what God says.
 - iv. When we are doing what God says, Peter tells us that we won't fall away.
- f. In reality, the consequence is singular and it is having heaven as our home for all eternity.

From an article by John Kachelman, Jr.