

BOOK OF 2 PETER
KEYS TO SPIRITUAL GROWTH
ADD CHARITY TO BROTHERLY KINDNESS
2 PETER 1:5-7

Introduction

We're looking at how the **HOLY SPIRIT** used **PETER** to **INSTRUCT** us to "**ADD TO OUR FAITH**" the seven things that are detailed in *Vs 5-7!*

So, last week we saw that we are to add **BROTHERLY KINDNESS** to **GODLINESS**.

Now come to the final item on the list of things that we need to be building into our lives! We see that to **BROTHERLY KINDNESS** we are to add **CHARITY**.

What is "**CHARITY?**" The word translated "**CHARITY**" in our Bible comes from the Greek word, "**AGAPE.**" (**86X LOVE; 27X CHARITY**)

AGAPE is the kind of **LOVE** that the **LORD LOVES** us with!
CHARITY (or "**AGAPE**") is "*seeking the highest good for others.*" (**BENEVOLENCE!**)

John 3:16–17—“16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. 17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

Romans 5:8—“But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”

1 John 4:9-11

CHARITY is the **SELFLESS LOVE PAUL DEFINED and EXPOUNDED** upon in **1 Corinthians 13**.

An exposition of **1 CORINTHIANS 13** is a whole another study in itself.

As we saw last week, "**BROTHERLY KINDNESS**" focuses on our **RELATIONSHIPS WITHIN THE FAMILY OF GOD**.
BELIEVERS are to **HAVE BROTHERLY LOVE** for **EACH OTHER!**

BOOK OF 2 PETER
KEYS TO SPIRITUAL GROWTH
ADD CHARITY TO BROTHERLY KINDNESS
2 PETER 1:5-7

However, **CHARITY**, or this **AGAPE LOVE**, means that we are to show it to **ALL OF MANKIND**, our **BRETHREN** as well as those that are **LOST!**

I want to just concentrate on our **AGAPE LOVE** or **CHARITY** for those who are **LOST**, because that is where **JESUS** first focused **HIS LOVE!**

How can we show the unsaved **CHARITY**—i.e. the **LOVE OF CHRIST?**

I. WE SHOW THE LOVE OF CHRIST BY BUILDING BRIDGES OF FRIENDSHIP WITH THOSE WHO ARE LOST.
JESUS is our example here. **HE** was known as "*...a friend of publicans and sinners...*" (*Luke 7:37*)

The **SCRIBES and PHARISEES** meant that as a slam against **JESUS**, but **JESUS** didn't let it affect **HIS MINISTRY** to them!

HIS LOVE and CONCERN for the **SINNER** was **EVIDENT!**

JESUS had a **HEART** for the **LOST!** It did not matter to **HIM** what a person's **BACKGROUND** or **STATUS** might be.

JESUS LOVED THEM and was **FRIENDLY TO THEM!**

Just think of the different types of individuals we have record of **JESUS** reaching out to. They include:

- 1) *A demon possessed man.*
- 2) *The Woman at the Well...a woman who was living immorally.*
- 3) *Zaacheaus...a crooked, thieving tax collector. (Matthew)*
- 4) *Nicodemus...a well respected teacher of the Law.*

We also need to try to establish **FRIENDSHIPS** with those who are **LOST** for the purpose of bringing them to **JESUS!**

Now understand, that we are not to wallow with them in their **SIN**, but neither are we to **ISOLATE** ourselves entirely from them.

If we **ISOLATE** ourselves from those who need **JESUS**, how will we

BOOK OF 2 PETER
KEYS TO SPIRITUAL GROWTH
ADD CHARITY TO BROTHERLY KINDNESS
2 PETER 1:5-7

ever win them to the **SAVIOUR**?

Sometimes all it takes is for us to have a **HEARING EAR** and an **UNDERSTANDING HEART!**

WE SHOW THE LOVE OF CHRIST BY BUILDING BRIDGES OF FRIENDSHIP WITH THOSE WHO ARE LOST.

II. WE SHOW THE LOVE OF CHRIST BY REGULARLY PRAYING FOR THE LOST. (Psalm 126:5-6)

A huge factor in **EVANGELISM** is **PRAYER**.

Every **BELIEVER** needs to understand their **RESPONSIBILITY TO PRAY FOR THE SALVATION OF THE LOST!**

How much time do we spend **PRAYING FOR THE LOST?**

When was the last time that we have called any specific unsaved persons name before the **LORD**?

A. To Effectively Pray For The Lost We Must Have A Proper Belief.

Do we really **BELIEVE** that **JESUS** meant it when he said that in order to enter the **KINGDOM OF GOD**, a person, "*...must be born again.*" (John 3:3-7)

Do we really believe that **JESUS** was speaking the truth when **HE** said, "*I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*" (John 14:6)

*I read one time that when W.C. Fields was on his deathbed, a friend of his dropped by and found him reading the **BIBLE**. Surprised to see **Fields** actually reading the **BIBLE**, he couldn't help but ask what he was up to.*

BOOK OF 2 PETER
KEYS TO SPIRITUAL GROWTH
ADD CHARITY TO BROTHERLY KINDNESS
2 PETER 1:5-7

Fields said he was , "Looking for loopholes, my friend. Looking for loopholes."

But there aren't any *loopholes* for our **FRIENDS** and **FAMILY MEMBERS** nor for **ANYONE ELSE WHO HAS NOT RECEIVED JESUS CHRIST!** What **JESUS** has said is **TRUE!**

To Effectively Pray For The Lost We Must Have A Proper Belief!

B. To Effectively Pray For The Lost We Must Have A Proper Burden!

Indifference is one of the greatest **hindrances to PRAYER**. It is so easy to let our hearts get cold about the **ETERNAL DESTINY** of others.

There are too many **BELIEVERS** who let everything in the world keep them so busy that they neglect to spend time in **PRAYER FOR THE LOST TO BE SAVED!**

PAUL had a **BURDEN FOR THE LOST**. In *Romans 9:2* he described the deep desire he had to see his kinsmen saved by saying that he had a "*...great heaviness and continual sorrow...*" in his heart.

In *Romans 10:1*, **PAUL** went on to say, "*...my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.*"

We need to **LOVE THE LOST!** We need to **LOVE THEM ENOUGH TO PRAY FOR THEM!**

1. We Should Pray That They Will Be Exposed To A Clear Presentation Of The Gospel.
Romans 10:13-14– 13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. 14 How then

BOOK OF 2 PETER
KEYS TO SPIRITUAL GROWTH
ADD CHARITY TO BROTHERLY KINDNESS
2 PETER 1:5-7

*shall they call on him in whom they have not believed?
and how shall they believe in him of whom they have
not heard? and how shall they hear without a
preacher?*

*Romans 10:17—"So then faith cometh by hearing, and
hearing by the word of God."*

2. We Should Pray For The Lord To Use The Holy Spirit To Convict Them.

*John 16:8-11—"8 And when he is come, he will reprove
the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:
9 Of sin, because they believe not on me;
10 Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye
see me no more; 11 Of judgment, because the prince of
this world is judged."*

3. We Should Pray For Those Who Minister The Word. (2 Thessalonians 3:1)

*Paul asked the Thessalonians to "...pray for us, that the
word of the Lord may have free course, and be
glorified..."*

**4. We Should Pray For The Lord To Give Us Opportunities To Spread The Gospel.
(Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8)**

5. We Should Pray That We Might Make The Most Out Of The Opportunities That We Do Have To Share The Gospel.

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BOOK OF 2 PETER
KEYS TO SPIRITUAL GROWTH
ADD CHARITY TO BROTHERLY KINDNESS
2 PETER 1:5-7

That brings me to the final thing I want to say.

III. WE SHOW THE LOVE OF CHRIST BY TELLING THE LOST HOW TO KNOW JESUS CHRIST AS THEIR SAVIOUR.

It is not enough for us to **BEFRIEND THE LOST**. It is not enough to **PRAY FOR THE LOST**. We need to be **READY, WILLING,** and **ABLE** to **SPEAK** to them about **JESUS CHRIST**.

In **MARK 5** there is a story about the conversion of a **DEMON POSSESSED MAN**. After what **JESUS** had done for him he wanted to be with **JESUS**. **Listen to what JESUS said to him:**
Vs 19—"...Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee."

What happened? He obeyed the **LORD JESUS** and it says that as he told what happened to him, *"...All men did marvel."* *Vs. 20*

We see a similar result in *JOHN 4:28-30, 39-42*.

Let me ask, **WHAT HAS JESUS DONE FOR YOU?** If **JESUS has SAVED YOU**, tell those around you who need **JESUS** what great things **HE** has done for you!

Conclusion

BELIEVER, how is your **LOVE** for those who are **LOST**? Is it what it should be for someone like yourself who has been delivered from so great a death?

Are you **SEEKING THE HIGHEST GOOD FOR JUST YOURSELF**? That is what **SELFISHNESS** is all about!

Or are you **SEEKING THE HIGHEST GOOD FOR OTHERS**?

**BOOK OF 2 PETER
KEYS TO SPIRITUAL GROWTH
ADD CHARITY TO BROTHERLY KINDNESS
2 PETER 1:5-7**

That is what **CHARITY** is all about!

As **BELIEVERS**, we need to realize that sometimes all that is needed to get some people's attention and to begin the process of pointing them to **GOD is for us to be involved in ACTS or ACTIONS of SELFLESS LOVE, UNSOLICITED KINDNESS, and UNDESERVED HELP.**

The **HIGHEST GOOD** that we can ever seek for someone who is **LOST** is to help them come to **KNOW THE SAVIOUR** and be **SAVED!**

Are you **BUILDING BRIDGES** with those who are **LOST**?
Are you **PRAYING** for the **LOST**?
Are you telling anyone about **JESUS**?