

**BOOK OF 2 PETER**  
**MATURING IN CHRIST**  
**FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLE: BE SPIRITUALLY DILIGENT**  
**2 PETER 1:1-10**

**Introduction**

Peter's readers were living in **an environment that was extremely hostile** to the cause of Jesus Christ.

Peter knew that if they were to **stand under the pressure and make an impact on their world** they would have to **grow strong spiritually**.

And so Peter **gives instruction** that not only **fortified their faith**, but instruction that **will also help us to mature in Christ** in the society we live in as well.

I don't know about you, but **I want to be a mature and effective Servant of my Lord and Saviour**.

As a Pastor, one of my **greatest desires for our Church is to see each member grow and mature into an effective servant of Jesus**.

Here we discover **what it takes to be mature and effective Christians**. Peter admonishes us to **"add to" or build our faith**.

The principle that I want to cover tonight is foundational:  
**To Mature in our Christianity, we must be Spiritually Diligent**.

Look at verse 5 and notice that Peter underscores....

**I. THE RESPONSIBILITY OF PRACTICING SPIRITUAL DILIGENCE. (vs 5)**

We seem to live in the day of additives.

There are vitamin additives designed to supplement your diet.  
(Weight loss, gain, etc.)

There are gasoline additives that are supposed to help you keep your fuel injectors clean.

There are oil additives that are suppose to help keep your engine running smoothly.

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There are even additives to help make the gray in your hair go away.

In verse 5, Simon Peter gives the instruction, *"Add to your faith,"* then he names **seven things we are to add or build upon the foundation of faith**.

Let's clarify however that **in order to add to your faith, you must first HAVE saving faith**.

Peter's readers had professed to having saving faith. Look again at **verse 1** and you will see that Peter addressed this letter to **"them that have obtained like precious faith..."**

Peter speaks here of a **"precious faith"**.

This faith that Peter speaks of is not the FALSE FAITH of the heretics. (Everybody has faith of some sort!)

This faith is not the PHONY FAITH of the hypocrite.

This faith is not the FRUITLESS FAITH of one who merely professes faith.

Peter describes this faith as **"precious"** I believe for two important reasons.

First, because:

**A. The Object Of Our Faith Is Precious.**

Who is the object of the Christian's faith? Note I said who not what? The Who is Jesus! Saving faith is precious because it is through faith in Jesus Christ that one is born into the family of God.

John's Gospel tells the story of Nicodemus. Jesus told him that to enter heaven he **"must be born again"**. Jesus went on to explain that to be born again one must put their faith in the Lord Jesus.

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Jesus assured Nicodemus in John 3:16– *"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"*

I think secondly, that Peter describes saving faith as **"PRECIOUS FAITH"**, because not only is the Object of our faith precious, but...

**B. The Outcome Of Our Faith Is Precious.**

In **2 Corinthians 5:17**, the Bible declares that if you have trusted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour, then you have become... *"a new creature."* And because that is true, *"old things have passed away, behold all things are become new."*

Peter knew the reality of saving faith that transformed his life! Peter knew the outcome of placing faith in the person of Jesus Christ.

Before Peter trusted Jesus as his Saviour, he was a foul mouthed, self-centered, cowardly, compromising man. But Jesus saved him and transformed him into a mighty instrument of righteousness.

Notice in the opening sentence of this letter, Peter identifies himself as, *"a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ."*

The Christian life begins when one places their trust in the Savior, but Peter wants us to understand that becoming a Christian is not the end, it is the beginning.

**The Christian life is to be added to!**

Look again at verse 5 and note that we are to be *"giving all diligence"* as we add to our faith.

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The word *"diligence"* refers to *the earnest, zealous, exertion of oneself.*

**This matter of adding to our faith**, seeing our faith strengthened and enriched **demands our diligence.**

**No one grows in the spiritual realm automatically.**

I wish as a Pastor I could just put people in a room push a button and bang, it would produce a mature, growing, and effective believer for the kingdom of God. But that is not possible.

It takes intentional effort. **The attainment of anything worthwhile doesn't just happen. It takes intentional effort!**

*(Illustration: Herschel Walker the greatest running back in the history of the University of Georgia, was the smallest kid on his high school team at age 15. His coach challenged him to build himself up. He said that off season he did a million pushups, sit-ups, and ran a million yards of sprints. He was diligent in his pursuit of being able to play football and it payed off.)*

Not one of us can afford to dillydally around spiritually. **We must be diligent in our pursuit of becoming all the Lord wants us to be!**

Now look back at **verses 3 and 4** for a moment and I want you to see that as we endeavor to diligently add to our faith, Peter reminds us of...

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**II. THE RESOURCES FOR PRACTICING SPIRITUAL DILIGENCE. (vs 3-4)**

**Can we be successful in the process of adding to our faith? Yes!**

**Is spiritual growth for every believer? Yes it is!**

There is absolutely no reason why you can not grow spiritually **if you really want to grow.**

Peter tells us that **if we will practice spiritual diligence we can expect to have two very important Divine resources at our disposal:**

**A. We Have God's Power To Enable Us. (Vs 3)**

Peter is saying that our Lord's Power is sufficient!

**The provision of power that is available to us is able to provide all that we need in relationship to life and godliness.**

Peter's point is that **"divine power" not only produces new life in the believer, but it also can enable us to live godly. It will enable us to add to our faith.**

*The story is told of a woman living in a remote valley in Wales who went to a lot of trouble to have electricity installed in her home. Because she was the only customer in the area, installation was very expensive. Three months later her consumption of electricity was less than a single price unit. When asked whether the cost of installation was worth while she said, "Oh, yes!" "I switch it on every night to see how to light my lamps. Then I switch it off."*

Can you imagine that? Not using the power available!

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That pictures many Christians. **They could be growing, but they are mired in mediocrity. They are failing to rely on the power of Jesus to enable them to live victoriously for Jesus.**

Notice also, that as we attempt to diligently add to our faith, we not only have at our disposal *God's Power To Enable Us...*

**B. We Have God's Promises To Encourage Us. (Vs 4)**

Look at verse 4. It says we have been given, **"exceeding great and precious promises..."**

Herbert Lockyer, in his book, *"All the Promises of the Bible"*, says that in the Word of God there are 7487 promises made to mankind by God.

**The promises of God are described as "exceeding great and precious".**

**1. They are exceeding great because of their source.**  
They come from God.!

**2. They are exceeding precious because of their significance.**

Their value is beyond measure!

**Think of some of those promises:**

The believer is promised... eternal life (John 3:16), strength when weary (Isaiah 40:28-31), reward when obedient (Revelation 22:12), comfort for trial (2 Corinthians 1:3-5), victory over temptation, answers to prayers, companionship when dying! And that is to name just a few!

Friend we can depend on God's promises!

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We need to tap into these resources and let Christ mold us into all he wants us to be!

Then let me finally mention...

**III. THE REWARDS OF PRACTICING SPIRITUAL DILIGENCE.**  
**(Vs 8-10)**

No doubt there was probably someone in the crowd that Peter was writing to, and maybe even someone in our crowd who might be thinking, *"Yeah I know I need to get more diligent about my spiritual development but is it really worth it."*

They have the attitude some have regarding New Years resolutions. Some resolve to quit smoking, some resolve to loose weight, but after a few days, they start thinking *"Is it worth it?"* Many decide no. The problem is that **they fail to see the future reward.**

Listen, **it is worth the price to add to your faith with diligence!**

For example, in verse 8, Peter says, *"If these things be in you..."*  
i.e. If we will build these spiritual habits into our lives...

**A. We Will Be Equipped. (vs 8)**

If you build these habits into your life you will become a useful, fruitful, growing Christian.

**B. We Will Be Enlightened. (vs 9)**

Peter says that those who neglect these habits are blind. Blind to heavenly things and engrossed in earthly things. They lack spiritual perception and forget the work of God's grace in their hearts.

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**C. We Will Be Established. (verses 10-11)**

We will have confidence.

We won't *"fall"*, literally *stumble*.

We will continue on the path of growth.

**Conclusion:**

Are you saved? Do you know that if you died today that you would go to heaven? If not, put your faith in Jesus.

Christian... do you want to be a mature and effective servant of Jesus Christ?

If so, it is going to cost you something!

Are you willing today to commit yourself to give it your best effort?