

2 Peter 1:2-15

2 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; 3 seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. 4 For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust. 5 Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge, 6 and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness, 7 and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love. 8 For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 For he who lacks these qualities is blind or short-sighted, having forgotten his purification from his former sins. 10 Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble; 11 for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you. 12 Therefore, I will always be ready to remind you of these things, even though you already know them, and have been established in the truth which is present with you. 13 I consider it right, as long as I am in this earthly dwelling, to stir you up by way of reminder, 14 knowing that the laying aside of my earthly dwelling is imminent, as also our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me. 15 And I will also be diligent that at any time after my departure you will be able to call these things to mind.

Peter's goal was to pound these truths into the church with the remainder of his earthy days.

1. God has provided you with every thing you need for life and godliness, along with precious and magnificent promises so that you can be partakers of the divine nature.
2. Because of these great graces, you must apply all diligence in your faith-walk to add to this faith moral excellence, and to moral excellence knowledge etc.
3. If these qualities become yours and are increasing...you will not be useless, unfruitful, blind, or at risk of falling away, but you will have the kingdom abundantly supplied to you!

We are going to spend the next 8 weeks walking through the qualities Peter identifies in vs 5-7

5 Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge, 6 and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness, 7 and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love.

Peter assumes faith is present as he begins his progression of qualities.

1. This faith is absolutely foundational to the Christian life and to everything listed here!
2. *Of each pair of graces here mentioned, the one is to be in the other, like adjoining colors of the rainbow—mingled with it, and exhibited along with it—and then all coalesce into one bright orb of beauty, binding together heaven and earth, God and man. For of the glorious arch faith is the starting point and the consummation is love. LILLIE*
3. Since faith is the foundation, we want to determine this morning if we have true, biblical, saving, fruit producing faith.

1 John 5:13

John has written his letter to those who profess to believe in the name of the Son of God.

1. Why did he write these things to these professing believers?
2. He wrote so that they may come to know that they have eternal life.
3. In a sense, he wrote this letter so that believers could examine themselves to see whether or not they truly have eternal life.

There are 7 questions we can ask ourselves from 1 John to help us know whether or not we truly have saving faith.

I. Am I living a life that is characterized by confessing Christ and embracing the Gospel?

1 John 2:23-24 *Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father; the one who confesses the Son has the Father also. 24 As for you, let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father.*

1. Romans 10:9-13
2. 1 John 4:15 *Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.*
3. 1 John 5:1 *Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and whoever loves the Father loves the child born of Him.*

Are you living a life that is characterized by confessing Christ and embracing His Gospel? GOSPEL

II. Am I living a life characterized by righteousness?

1 John 1:6-7 *If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; 7 but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.*

1. 1 John 2:3-6 *By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. 4 The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; 5 but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him: 6 the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.*
2. Matt 7:21 *Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.*
3. 1 John 2:29 *If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone also who practices righteousness is born of Him.*

1 John 3:7-10 *Little children, make sure no one deceives you; the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous; 8 the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil. 9 No one who is born of God practices sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. 10 By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother.*

1. Notice that John puts the emphasis in these verses on practice.
2. What are we characterized by? Are we characterized by righteousness or sin?

If we have eternal life we, and those around us, will know it by our practice, by our lifestyle, and by our righteousness.

1. This is not unique to John.
2. 2 Corinthians 5:17 *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”*
3. 1 Corinthians 6:9-11
4. Are you living a life characterized by righteousness?

III. Am I living a life characterized by love?

1 John 2:9-11 *The one who says he is in the Light and yet hates his brother is in the darkness until now. 10 The one who loves his brother abides in the Light and there is no cause for stumbling in him. 11 But the one who hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going because the darkness has blinded his eyes.*

1. 1 John 3:10 *By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother.*

2. 1 John 3:14-19 *We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love abides in death. 15 Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer; and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. 16 We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. 17 But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him? 18 Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth. 19 We will know by this that we are of the truth, and will assure our heart before Him*

3. 1 John 4:7-8 *Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 8 The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.*

4. 1 John 4:20-21 *If someone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen. 21 And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also.*

IV. Am I living a life of increased loyalty to God and increased separation from the world?

1 John 2:15-17 *Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. 17 The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.*

1. John makes it extremely clear that anyone who loves the world does not have the love of the Father in him.
2. If we are people who find our hearts inclined towards the world or the things found in the world then we need to do a careful self examination.
3. As children of God who will live forever, who have an eternal, kingdom perspective, we should not be characterized by getting caught up in, or preoccupied with the world and the things that the world finds its joy in.

1 John 5:4 *For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world--our faith.*

1. What do your priorities say about you? Are you on a worldly trajectory or a godly one?
2. When a third party looks at you do they see someone born of God overcoming the world by faith, or one who is joining with the rest of the world in the things you do, listen to, watch, spend your money on, and think?
3. Are you living a life of increased loyalty to God and increased separation from the world?
4. Matt 6:24 *"No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.*

V. Am I living a life of steadfastness, perseverance, and endurance?

1 John 2:19 *They went out from us, but they were not really of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but they went out, so that it would be shown that they all are not of us.*

1. The antichrists are characterized by leaving the faith.
2. True believers do not walk away from the faith.
3. They are characterized by steadfastness, perseverance, and endurance.
4. Luke 9:62 *"No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."*
5. Matthew 24:13 *"the one who endures to the end will be saved"*

1 John 2:24 *As for you, let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father.*

VI. Does the Spirit of God reside in us? Do we have the Son?

1 John 3:24 *The one who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. We know by this that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.*

1. 1 John 4:13 *By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit.*

2. 1 John 5:12 *He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.*

- a. If we have the Son, we have life.
- b. If we know Christ we have the Spirit of God dwelling within us, living in us, and through us.
- c. This is not referring to a peaceful easy feeling.

3. When the Holy Spirit is dwelling in us, it means that He is present, convicting us, disciplining us, leading us, guiding us, directing us, and assuring us.

Is the Holy Spirit in you?

VII. Do we Listen to the Word of God?

1 John 4:6 *We are from God; he who knows God listens to us; he who is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.*

We need to ask ourselves, “**Are we listening to the Scriptures?**”

1. This is the essence of being a disciple isn't it?
2. Matthew 28:19-20...go and make disciples teaching them to obey all that I have commanded
 - a. Does Jesus mean go and teach them all the sentences that are in red?
 - b. Did Jesus, the Living Word, not give us the entirety of the written Word? Is it not all His?
 - c. So, in essence, if we learn to listen to the Scriptures, we are learning to obey all.

Are you listening to the Scriptures? Is it a part of your life and regular routine?

1. Not your heart, or your tradition, or your parents, or your denomination or Sunday school teacher, etc.
2. What does the Word of God say about you? About your faith?
 - a. Am I living a life that is characterized by confessing Christ and embracing the Gospel?
 - b. Am I living a life characterized by righteousness?
 - c. Am I living a life characterized by love?
 - d. A life of increased loyalty to God and increased separation from the world?
 - e. Am I living a life of steadfastness, perseverance, and endurance?
 - f. Does the Spirit of God reside in us? Do we have the Son?

Without a biblical, saving faith, we cannot move on to spiritual maturity.

1. Do you need to drive down a peg today?
2. GOSPEL