

Faith for Your Journey

2 Peter 1:1-11

Introduction

A dynamically developing faith is the key to a successful Christian journey. 2 Peter 1:5 says that we should add to our faith. Our faith is initiated by trusting Christ as Savior. When we get saved, that is the start of the faith journey. But faith must be a lifestyle not just an event. The faith of a believer is not solely represented in the moment of their salvation but through the way the individual chooses to operate every day. Faith is expressed as we act like God is telling the truth. Faith is not just an emotional term; it's also a functional one. Faith is functional, in that you do not simply feel it but you must use it!

Faith must be developed for a successful Christian journey. One of the goals of this journey is usefulness. (2 Peter 1:8) Without the development of your faith, God can't use you (Hebrews 11:6). Therefore we must operate in faith and add to it by developing it as our text prescribes. You can develop your faith through works of service and obedience. If we obey God and serve others as God leads us to do, then we are in fact developing and adding muscles to our faith. Our choice to develop our faith makes room for God's intervention.

Faith must be supplemented for a successful Christian journey. Since faith is the point of access into what God has determined to provide us, our faith grows as it is abundantly supported. When we add to our faith we multiply our access to grace, meaning that we invite more and more of God's activity into our life. Therefore, it is worth our while to pay attention to the progress of our faith. Progress for believers is based on the development of faith, which involves effort, understanding, and participation.

Getting Started

1. We know that faith is the one and only key to salvation (John 3:16). It may seem like a foreign concept to learn that the faith you exercise upon salvation is not enough to live a victorious and abundant Christian life on earth. Does this make you feel uneasy? Explain what adding to your faith actually means according to 2 Peter 1:5-7.
2. What do you do to supplement your faith? Can you see the benefits of your efforts?

Let's Get Personal

1. Is your faith a lifestyle or just an occasional event? Why do you think you may have been satisfied with an occasional type of faith?
2. What challenges are you currently facing that demand a faith decision? Why do people wait until challenges to focus on their faith? What do you think would help you and your fellow Christians to pursue the development of your faith when you are *not* in a challenging season?
3. What victories have you experienced because of your faith?

Take the Next Step

1. While God can use anyone, He regularly uses those who have taken an active role in developing their faith. Do you want God to be active in your life? Do you want Him to use you? What is one thing you can do this week to show commitment to your faith? How can you move your faith from an emotional activity to a functional one?
2. After listening to this week's sermon and discussing it with your group, what works of service and obedience is God convicting you to do?
3. Want to dig deeper? Take a look at Hebrews 11:1, 6; Romans 5:1-2, 2 Corinthians 5:7, Romans 1:17, and James 2:14-26.

Renew Your Mind

"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."

2 Peter 1:8