

II Peter 1:1-11
“Growing in Faith”

I. (1-4) **The Gift of Faith**

- a. (1) *To those who have received a faith of the same kind as ours, by the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ...*
 - i. Saving faith is a *gift* to be received:
 1. The grace of God in saving faith
 2. The enabling work of the Holy Spirit
 - a. Faith and effectual calling (Titus 1:1)
 - ii. Saving faith is *active*:
 1. Faith is the activity of the penitent sinner.
 - a. *Faith is not the act of God; it is not God who believes in Christ for salvation, it is the sinner. It is by God’s grace that a person is able to believe but faith is an activity on the part of the person and of him alone* (John Murray).
 - i. In salvation, God interacts with us as *persons*.
 - iii. Saving faith is *trust*:
 1. The product of knowledge and assent
 - a. *Faith is knowledge passing into conviction, and it is conviction passing into confidence* (John Murray).
 - i. Faith is the transfer of reliance.
 - ii. Faith is trusting in the *person* of Jesus Christ.
 - iv. Saving faith is *equal*:
 1. The faith that saves is granted in equal measure.
 - a. Salvation rests upon God’s character (*righteousness*), not man’s.
 - b. *Faith unites the weak believer to Christ as really as it does the strong one* (Matthew Henry).
 - v. Saving faith is *Christ-centered*:
 1. *Faith in Christ is a saving grace, whereby we receive and rest upon him alone for salvation, as he is offered to us in the gospel* (WSC 86).
 - a. Faith rests upon the Christ of Scripture alone.
 - i. *Solo Christo* (John 14:6; I Tim 2:5).
 - ii. Contra intuitive knowledge (Gnostics), good works (Roman Catholicism), and reason (Renaissance)
 - iii. *There is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved* (Acts 4:12).
 - b. (2) Faith grows in proportion to our knowledge.
 - i. The knowledge of Christ is *intellectual* and *experiential*.
 - ii. The knowledge of Christ bears exponential fruit.
 1. Grace and peace are the gifts *granted* to those who pursue greater knowledge of Christ.
 - vi. Saving faith includes *provisions*:
 1. All that is necessary for growth in faith is granted by God.
 - a. (3) *Everything pertaining to life and godliness*:
 - i. The aim of effectual calling is holiness (Rom 8:28-29).
 - b. (4) *Promises*:
 - i. God’s holiness (*partakers of the divine nature*) is obtained through the person and work of Christ.
 - ii. God’s holiness is reflected by putting off corruption.

II. (5-9) **The Adornments of Faith**

- a. *Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence...*
 - i. (5) The necessity of a holy life:
 1. *For God has not called us for the purpose of impurity, but in sanctification (I Thess 4:7).*
 - a. Christian conduct matters to God (contra Gnostic hedonism).
 - b. Holy living is the right response to God's grace and peace.
 - i. *Work out your salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure (Phil 2:12-13).*
 - c. Holy living requires diligence and effort (James 2).
 2. **Faith:** The root of the seven virtues (Heb 11:6)
 - a. *These other virtues are unattainable until the step of faith has been taken (Donald Guthrie).*
 3. **Moral excellence:** *A life honest and rightly formed (John Calvin)*
 - a. The Christian life should be marked by *virtue* (godly manners)
 - i. Christianity's impact upon the culture
 4. **Knowledge:** The possession of biblical wisdom (worldview)
 - a. For the purpose of Christian defense (I Peter 3:15)
 - i. *Apologetics is the vindication of the Christian philosophy of life against various forms of the non-Christian philosophy of life (Cornelius Van Til).*
 - b. For the purpose of prudent behavior
 5. **Self-control:** The Christian life is one of self-denial (I Cor 9:25)
 - a. *Instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly...in the present age (Titus 2:12).*
 - i. A sober use of the good things of this life
 6. **Perseverance:** A disposition of continuance unaltered by circumstances
 - a. *Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial (James 1:12).*
 - i. To hold fast to one's **faith in Christ**
 7. **Godliness:** To live *Coram Deo* (in the presence of God)
 - a. Existence for the glory of God (*Soli Deo Gloria*)
 8. **Brotherly kindness:** A particular affection for believers
 - a. *Let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of faith (Gal 6:10).*
 - i. Love expressed through action
 9. **Love:** The preeminent fruit of the Christian life
 - a. *Now faith, hope, love, abide these three; but the greatest of these is love (I Cor 13:13).*
 - i. Love for mankind as the bearers of God's image
 - iii. (8-9) The benefits of a holy life:
 1. (8) A growing knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ (cf. 1:2-3, 8; 3:18)
 2. (9) Spiritual sight

III. (10-11) **The Assurance of Faith**

- a. *Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling...*
 - i. The assurance of faith:
 1. Is buttressed by the Spirit's work in our lives (I John 3:10)
 2. Is buttressed by the Spirit's internal testimony in our hearts (Gal 4:6)
 - ii. The Christian must practice never stumbling!