

Series "Knowing And Growing In Christ"
"Fruitful & Useful"
2 Peter 1:5-11
Study-2

Peter changes direction from What God has done to What the believer should do!
2 Peter 3:18

2 Peter 1 – Faith’s Convictions: Keep Following Jesus.

Thought Of The Passage: God Has Given The Believer Divine Power And Promises, So That The Believer Would Become Fruitful And Useful.

1. Verses 5–7 – Being Fruitful

2. Verses 8–11 – Being Useful

1. Verses 5–7 – Being Fruitful:

2 Peter 1:5 – “Now” – or “Therefore;” When we see these words, they are hinges to turn back and forth on.

“for this very reason also,” – 2 Peter 1:3-4 – God has given to us salvation, His power and promises for life and growth.

Human Responsibility: “applying” – “adding on your part, to bring in and supply,” Philippians 2:12-13.

“all diligence,” – “to make haste, to be eager, or effort.” It means “because of all that God has done for you in your life, add on your part, real effort.”

“Great effort;” But God is with us, 2 Peter 1:3.

“in your faith,” – “saving faith.”

“in your faith supply” – or “add;” Peter speaks of adding 7X the following qualities.

“supply” – or “add;” a Greek word used of A Runner: “a runner who gives all that they have, as they approach the finish line;” Great Effort.

“supply” – or “add;” used of a A Financer: In the 1st century, choirmaster – responsible to provide all that was needed; Great Cost.

"Great Effort, and Great Cost;" that there is no labor too hard and no price too great in pursuing the God-honoring life.

Peter Lists 7 Qualities To A Useful Purpose: These qualities are an indictment against the false teachers in 2 Peter 2-3.

#1. "moral excellence" (Virtue) – The Greek root word is "courage;" speaks of bravery and valor; The God-honoring life, 2 Peter 1:3.

Classical Greek – "something that fulfilled its original design and purpose."

A good fast horse – Was a horse of virtue, excellent; Good footing, reliable, fast.

Land – could be called virtuous or excellent. It would be fertile, producing good fruit.

#2. "and in your moral excellence, knowledge" – "a knowledge acquired through learning, effort, and experience, practical knowledge;" a commonsense approach to applying biblical principles in our daily circumstances. The knowledge of God's Word which leads to the person of Christ; Possible to be courageous and fanatical without knowledge.

John 7:17

2 Peter 1:6

#3. "and in your knowledge, self control" – literally, "the ability to take a grip of oneself;" Nothing mastering us but the master Himself. Passions; our work, our food under control, temperance. This is a Jab at the licentiousness of the false teachers – 2 Peter 2:2; 3:3.

Proverbs 16:32; Proverbs 25:28

#4. "and in your self-control, perseverance" – Result of self-control; "the voluntary and daily suffering of hard and difficult things, for the sake of honor and usefulness." It speaks of having a hopeful attitude in the midst of those things! "hanging in there;" The reliable test of genuine faith will endure!

Psalms 27:14; Isaiah 40:31

2 Peter 2:9

#5. "and in your perseverance, godliness" – "reverence for God, which is a right attitude towards God (worship, and obedience); right attitude toward others;" evidenced by showing respect and a servant's heart.

Godliness takes the path, even if it is hard, 1 Timothy 4:7-8.

2 Peter 1:7

#6. "and in your godliness, (Vertical) brotherly kindness (Horizontal)" – "fervent, practical, caring for others;" It is the bearing of another's burdens; Generosity, courtesy for those of the household of faith.

Galatians 6:2 – The term "burdens" – "a weight or heavy load"

1 Corinthians 12:26

"Our worries, temptations, doubts and sorrows we can give to Jesus," 1 Peter 5:7.

2 Corinthians 7:5-7

#7. "and in your brotherly kindness, love" – "godly love, seeking the highest good for the other person." The word "agape," the highest love possible, God demonstrated toward sinners. It is a deliberate choice that is an action.

"Love one another" used 12X in the NT; God wants us to practice it! John 13:34

1 Peter 4:8

Peter started with faith, and ends in love, 1 Corinthians 13:13.

2. Verses 8-11 – Being Useful:

2 Peter 1:8

Choosing To Be Like Christ: "For if these qualities are yours" – That means that they are attainable.

"and are increasing," – or since they are ours, we are in Christ, they should be growing. We need to grow as a child of God, we need to grow in maturity.

4 Purposes Of Fruit:

- 1. Verse 8 – Fruit Confirms The Believer:** “they render you neither useless” – the word “render” – “to constitute, establish, or confirm;” The fruitfulness of the believer. Increasing fruit is the best guarantee of continuence.

“useless” – “idle, ineffective, not growing, unworking, one who avoids labor.”

“nor unfruitful” – “unproductive, barren, not practical;” literally, “they make you neither idle nor unfruitful,” John 15:4.

“in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ” – “believer becomes useful and productive through really knowing Him.”
Colossians 1:10

- 2. Verse 9 – Fruit Classifies The Believer:** “For he who lacks these qualities is blind” – “blindness to his past condition, blind as to heavenly things, so engrossed in the earthly he cannot see;” Earthly, possibly unconverted.

“or short-sighted” – “to shut the eyes;” Perpetual babe in Christ!

“having forgotten his purification from his former sins.” –
Colossians 3:1-2.

2 Corinthians 5:17

- 3. Verse 10 – Fruit Convinces The Believer:** “Therefore brethren,” – What is it there for? Don’t be blind or short-sighted.

“be all the more diligent (Urgency) to make certain about His calling and choosing you;” – Show through your present behavior that you are truly His, 2 Timothy 2:19.

“for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble” – “fall, to trip, to fail;” We will sin but its not irreversible.

2 Peter 1:11

- 4. Verse 11 – Fruit Crowns The Believer:** “for in this way” – Fruit-bearing; pursuing these qualities proves we belong to God.

“the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you.” – To the degree of fruit-bearing will be the degree of being welcomed into the kingdom.

2 Corinthians 5:10

“entrance” – Olympic winners – crowds waiting at the gates. Walk through a special gate that is reserved for those being honored.

“abundantly supplied” – receive a warm welcome,
1 Corinthians 3:14-15.

Application:

1. 2 Peter 1:5 – “Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith” – The Believer Should Be Willing To Give Great Effort, And Great Cost To Their Faith, Because God Has Saved Us, God Has Given Us His Power And Promises.
2. Peter Lists 7 Qualities To A Useful Purpose. There Can Be A Doubt About Those Who Don't Do These Things, But No Doubt About Those Who Do. Transformation Makes Certain That We Belong To Him. Knowing Is Growing In Christ.