

## 2 Peter 1:5-15

As a result of what has been granted to the believer in verses 1-4, we are to be diligent in growing our faith to increase our sanctification. The work of regeneration is monergistic (it is the work of God alone). However, after our conversion the growth in our lives with sanctification and being conformed into the image of God is synergistic. He has granted all things pertaining to life and godliness and we must then seek after those things and to work out our salvation with fear and trembling. The seeking toward God begins after our salvation and never before.

### Diligence (verse 5)

The Greek word used for diligence is *spoudē*. This word means: haste, earnestness in accomplishing, striving, interest in one's self most earnestly, zeal, diligence, making every effort.

The idea in this verse is to not be lazy in our sanctification and growth as a Christian. We are to have haste, eagerness, diligence, and zeal toward God and the things of God. We are to not be lazy in our reading, study, praying, seeking God, or using the gifts we have been given but rather pursue and press on toward the mark of the prize of the high calling (Phil 3:12-14). The Christian life is one of passion, fire, and pursuit of God in all aspects!

### Diligence to grow in these qualities (verses 5-7)

Peter will then give a list of things that we are to be more diligent in supplying our faith with. This list, although not exact, has similarities to the fruits of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22-23.

- **Moral Excellence:** This speaks to moral purity and uprightness of character.
  - 1 Peter 1:15-16 but <sup>[a]</sup>like the Holy One who called you, <sup>[b]</sup>be holy yourselves also in all *your* behavior; <sup>16</sup>because it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."
- **Knowledge:** We are called to grow in the knowledge of God. The more we know who God is and what He desires, the more we will grow in sanctification and worship as we come to see His good, acceptable, and perfect will. We are to renew our minds daily (Romans 12:1-2) which requires diligence. We are sanctified by truth; His Word is truth (John 17:17).
  - 2 Peter 3:18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him *be* the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.
  - Romans 12:1-2 Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, <sup>[a]</sup>acceptable to God, *which is your* <sup>[b]</sup>spiritual service of worship. <sup>2</sup>And do not be conformed to this <sup>[c]</sup>world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may <sup>[d]</sup>prove what the will of God is, that which is good and <sup>[e]</sup>acceptable and perfect.
- **Self control:** This comes from the Greek word *egkrateia* means self-mastery, self-restraint, self-control. This is a fruit of the Spirit.
- **Perseverance:** The Greek word *hypomonē* used here means perseverance, endurance, patience.
  - Romans 5:3-5 And not only this, but <sup>[a]</sup>we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; <sup>4</sup>and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; <sup>5</sup>and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.
  - James 1:2-4 Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various <sup>[c]</sup>trials, <sup>3</sup>knowing that the testing of your faith produces <sup>[d]</sup>endurance. <sup>4</sup>And let <sup>[e]</sup>endurance have *its* perfect <sup>[f]</sup>result, so that you may be <sup>[g]</sup>perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.
  - Hebrews 12:1-2 Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup><sup>[a]</sup>fixing our eyes on Jesus, the <sup>[b]</sup>author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.
  - Romans 15:4-5 For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. <sup>5</sup>Now may the God <sup>[a]</sup>who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus,

- **Godliness:** This comes from the Greek word *eusebeia* which means godliness and piety. God has granted us everything pertaining to life and godliness (**2 Peter 1:3**) in our salvation, with His Spirit, and His Word. It is for us to grow in sanctification and into this godliness as we seek Christ and grow in His knowledge.
  - **1 Timothy 4:7-9** But <sup>[a]</sup>have nothing to do with worldly fables fit only for old women. On the other hand, discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness; <sup>8</sup>for bodily discipline is only of little profit, but godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and *also* for the *life* to come. <sup>9</sup>It is a trustworthy statement deserving full acceptance.
  - **Titus 1:1-2** Paul, a bond-servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, <sup>[a]</sup>for the faith of those chosen of God and the knowledge of the truth which is according to godliness, <sup>2</sup>in the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised <sup>[b]</sup>long ages ago,
  - **2 Peter 3:10-12** But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and <sup>[a]</sup>its works will be <sup>[b]</sup>burned up.<sup>11</sup> Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, <sup>12</sup>looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat!
- **Brotherly kindness-** This speaks of the love and kindness we are to show to the brethren. This is a sign of true conversion.
  - **Romans 12:10** *Be* devoted to one another in brotherly love; <sup>[a]</sup>give preference to one another in honor;
  - **1 John 2:9** The one who says he is in the Light and yet hates his brother is in the darkness until now.
  - **1 John 3:14-16** We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love abides in death. <sup>15</sup> Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer; and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. <sup>16</sup> We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.
  - **1 John 4:20** 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.
- **Love:** We are to grow in our love for God and for others.
  - o **1 Corinthians 13:13** But now faith, hope, love, abide these three; but the <sup>[a]</sup>greatest of these is love.

### **Verses on diligently pursuing Godly qualities**

**1 Timothy 6:11-12** But flee from these things, you man of God, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, <sup>[a]</sup>perseverance *and* gentleness. <sup>12</sup> Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

**Matthew 5:6** "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

**2 Timothy 3:16** All Scripture is <sup>[a]</sup>inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for <sup>[b]</sup>training in righteousness; <sup>17</sup> so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

### **The importance of increasing these qualities (verse 8-9)**

These qualities are fruits that believers are to possess. However, Christians who possess these qualities are commanded to grow in these qualities. The importance of growing in these qualities is not only to be more conformed into the image of God and grow in sanctification, but to prevent you from being useless or unfruitful in the true knowledge of Jesus. When these qualities are lacking or not growing, the Christian can be lacking and ineffective in all aspects of their Christian life and sometimes indistinguishable from the world. This ineffectiveness will cause questions of their salvation which can cause that person to live in fear and doubt as well as little to no confidence in their salvation. When a Christian is unsure of their salvation or where they stand with God, they will also be ineffective in their witness toward others.

The Christian who lacks these qualities is blind/shortsighted to the fact that God has saved them and granted them all things pertaining to life and godliness. To be short sighted and unappreciative of what God has done in forgiving sins, will result in a lack of growth in godliness. To have true knowledge of what God has accomplished in our salvation will inevitably result in increased obedience, worship, and zeal for Christ. As Luke 7 and the parable of the two debtors states, those who think they have been forgiven of little will also love little (**Luke 7:47**). These Christians are short-sighted also forgetting they have been forgiven and purified of their sins. As a result, they stumble in their walk with God as well as with their assurance of salvation. When one is not sure of salvation, it affects every aspect of life and produces ineffectiveness.

### **Be more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you(verses 10-11)**

Peter has encouraged diligence in the life of the Christian to grow in the quantities that have been mentioned above. He explains the importance of growing in these qualities which require diligence. However, Peter now will ramp up his call for diligence. However, this time he states that we are to be all the more diligent in confirming our election and calling.

Election and predestination are Biblical and Peter is exhorting believers to be ALL THE MORE DILIGENT in confirming our election and calling. Many Christians can not follow Peter's command here in this text because they don't believe in election and predestination. It should make those who deny election, choosing, effectual calling begin to examine their views in light of this verse. How can we deny a Biblical doctrine that Peter tells us to be more diligent in. Confirming our election and calling is vital and necessary.

#### **Verses on election and effectual call**

- o Ephesians 1:3-14
- o Romans 8:29-39
- o Romans 9:11-24
- o John 6:37-40, 44, 65
- o John 17
- o Acts 13:48
- o Colossians 3:12
- o 1 Thessalonians 1:4
- o 2 Thessalonians 3:13-14
- o 2 Timothy 2:10
- o Titus 1:1-2
- o Hebrews 9:15
- o Revelation 17:14
- Any many more

Growing in these qualities will confirm and give assurance of calling and election. These qualities do not meritoriously save us, but are a way to confirm election and calling. Assurance of God's call comes from the evidence of the qualities and fruits that only are provided by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is only dwelling in the elect and He is a seal of eternal inheritance ([Ephesians 1:13-14](#), [Ephesians 4:30](#) [2 Corinthians 1:21-22](#), [2 Corinthians 5:5](#)).

If we are all the more diligent in confirming our calling and election, we will never stumble into doubt, fear, or lack assurance of our salvation and our eternal home. Those who practice these things will persevere in their walk with God and obtain their eternal inheritance. One of the characteristics of the elect is perseverance since Christ is the guardian of our souls ([1 Peter 2:25](#)) and the Good shepherd who never lets us out of His hand ([John 10:27-30](#)). Those who grow in these qualities will have assurance on this earth of their eternal home and then enjoy the fulfillment of that when they enter Heaven.

### **Always be reminded(verses 12-13)**

Since confirming your election and growing in sanctification is vital to the Christian life and since knowledge is a vital part of that process, Peter states for as long as he lives, he will continue to remind them of these truths even though they know them. We are to have a continual reminder of the truths of God. Many times we stay away and neglect verses or concepts that we think we have gotten figured out. However, we are to never have that attitude, but rather to be eager to be reminded of all the truths we have heard, as this is how we continue to strengthen our faith and grow. Peter is telling them that there is not a new idea or concept, but rather a continued growth of the truths that have been established. For us to continue to grow in sanctification, let us keep reminding ourselves of what we have learned even the "most basic" of things. We need to hear the Word of God daily and repetitiously.

### Laying aside the earthly dwelling (verses 14-15)

Peter has been shown by God that he is soon to die. Jesus had revealed to him information about his death ~ 40 years prior in the book of John.

- **John 21: 18-19** Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were younger, you used to gird yourself and walk wherever you wished; but when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands and someone else will gird you, and bring you where you do not wish to go.”<sup>19</sup> Now this He said, signifying by what kind of death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He \*said to him, “Follow Me!”

Tradition says that Peter was crucified upside down as he thought himself unworthy to be crucified in the same way as Christ.

Peter and Paul’s last letters (2 Peter and 2 Timothy) are similar. They are both in Roman prisons with both being told by God that their death was imminent. As they are moments away from death, their messages at the end of their letters are on the same theme. Peter tells the exiles to guard themselves and the church from false teachers that will come in and try to destroy the church. He exhorts them to know and grow in the Word so they can know the truth. Paul’s letter (2 Timothy) ends with the same tone as he tells Timothy to preach the word (**2 Timothy 42:2**).

*Peter wants the church to be able to recall all the things he has taught them after his death to defend the faith, the church, and God.*