

2 Peter 1:3-10

June 16, 2024

What a great place to be if we can get to that point in our lives where we truly do surrender it all to the Lord. He deserves it. Good morning. I know this is a little bit odd to have me up here when Bob is here, but obviously you guys know what has been going on with him this week. So he asked me in the middle of the week if I would preach for him this morning, not knowing for sure whether he would be feeling better or not. I am happy and honored to be able to be up here. Usually I do not get the chance to preach except for when Bob is sick, because the only time we can ever get him to take a vacation is when we go to Ohio together. So usually it is bad circumstances that I get to be up here, but thankfully he is feeling better.

I do not have a Father's Day message for you all today. I thought about preaching on John 8:44 about being of your father the devil, but I decided against that. I have a Father's Day joke that we will start with. It is probably pretty terrible, but we are going to go with it anyway.

It goes like this: A boy gets his driving permit and he goes to his dad and starts to talk to him about wanting to get a little bit of access to the car and start that process. His dad says, "Well, son, I will make you a deal. You bring up your grades and you start studying your Bible a little bit and go get your hair cut, and then we will talk about it." This is a little bit of a legalistic joke, but anyway. The kid has long hair if you did not get the idea. So after about a month, the son comes back and asks again and Dad says, "Son, I have been proud of you. You have brought your grades up like I asked you to. You have been studying your Bible diligently, but you never got that haircut." And the son waits a minute and he says, "Dad, I have been thinking about that. Samson, Moses, Noah, even Jesus all had long hair in the Bible." To which his dad replied, "Yes, son, you are right. But they also walked everywhere they went." I am glad you guys laughed at that. I was going to blame it on John B. Skett if you did not laugh. I was going to say I got that from him, but now he can steal it from me.

If you have your Bibles, I know you do, turn to 2 Peter chapter 1. We are going to be in 2 Peter chapter 1, and I am going to talk about something today that I hope will be useful for you. We are all very familiar in this church with God's systematic theology, the system of sevens in the Bible. We have gone through them several different times in several different ways. We know about the seven judgments and the seven baptisms, the seven mysteries, the seven things that we are not to be ignorant of, the seven things that please God. Of course, what has sort of become our discipleship, the seven things that changed about you the day you got saved. What we have here in 2 Peter chapter 1 that I want to spend a little bit of time talking with you about this morning are the seven things that God commands us to add after we get saved. The seven things that He tells us that we need to add into our lives after we get saved. You can put that right in line with all of the other sevens.

I. God's Divine Power and Precious Promises

We are going to read here verses 3 and 4 to start out with. We are going to spend a few minutes on these verses as our introduction.

2 Peter 1:3-4

According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

These first two verses right here are talking about our salvation. This divine power that He says, "according to his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness." In Romans 1:16, He says:

Romans 1:16

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

1 Corinthians 1:18 says:

1 Corinthians 1:18

For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved, it is the power of God.

So this divine power that He is talking about here in 2 Peter 1:3 has to do with our salvation. We know this because He says in verse 3, "he hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life, hath given." That is past tense. This is not something that He is promising to do for us. This is something that He says He has already done for us the day that we got saved, at the time of our salvation.

As we look at verse 4, He says the word "whereby." So that "whereby" ties right back into verse 3. By what? By that divine power, by that divine power that God used to save us that day that we trusted Christ, that day that we accepted Christ, He says, "whereby, by that power are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises." This obviously is dealing with the Word of God. These great and precious promises are the promises in the Bible that God gives to us for us to be able to live our lives by. He uses three words to describe these promises. He says they are exceeding, they are great, and they are precious. Let us look at these really quickly.

- Exceeding
- Great
- Precious

D.L. Moody once said, and this is a great quote, "God never made a promise that was too good to be true." God made some promises in this book. You want to do a study that will put some joy in your heart about what God has for you? You study the promises in the Bible. You study the promises that God lays out and that He gives to us. He never made a promise that was too good

to be true. We do that all the time. We make promises all the time that are too good to be true, that we never have any intention or ability to really back up. God never does that.

So we become, in 2 Peter 1:4, it says, "we become partakers of the divine nature." So in verse 3, He talks about the divine power that gives us salvation, and as a result, we become partakers of that divine nature. That is that new nature in Christ Jesus that we get when we get saved. These verses, verses 3 and 4, in comparison to what we are going to look at in verses 5, 6, 7 and 8, is a great tie-in and a correlation to that tremendous doctrine of standing and state in the Bible. If you guys do not know what that means, that our standing is the day that we get saved, our standing in Christ Jesus as born again, blood washed Christians that were forgiven for our sins, we know we are on our way to heaven, that is our standing in Christ. Nothing can ever change that. There is nothing we can do to ever cause us to lose that standing, never cause us to lose our salvation. That is what He is talking about in verses 3 and 4. This is our standing in Christ Jesus. It is the seven things that changed about us the day we got saved. It is the fact that when we got saved, we became a new creature in Christ Jesus. Old things are passed away. It is the fact that now that we are saved, the Bible says we are seated in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. The Bible says we have a new conversation now that we are saved. It says I am an ambassador for Christ. All of these things are things that are given to us. These are all things that are done for us at the time of salvation. These all come with the deal. It is part of the salvation that God gives to us. These seven things that change, that is our standing.

II. The Call to Diligence: Adding to Your Faith

Then we come to verse 5 here in 2 Peter chapter 1 and He says this:

2 Peter 1:5

And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue;

Everything up until now at salvation happens at salvation and does not require you to do anything other than simply trust Christ as your Lord and Savior. But now we get to verse 5 and everything changes. Now we are commanded to do something. Now we are commanded, we are told that we need to add some things. Yes, He says, "I have given you a great head start. I have given you all the ability that you need. I have given you My Holy Spirit. I have given you a church. I have given you My Bible. And you have everything that you need to accomplish My plan that I have for you in your life. But now you have got to add some things to what you started out with. I have given you the foundation, but now you have got to go to work and you have got to do some things."

But there is a way that He says to do it. Before we get into these seven things, we have got to talk about this little phrase there. He says, "giving all diligence," because it is not about just adding those things. It is about how you go about adding those things. That is going to be the true test of whether you are going to get where God wants you to get. We may need to define a few words as we go along here today. Diligence is one of these words I want to talk about for a second because let us be honest, and I do the same thing, and so if you guys want to admit it, I will raise my hand and say I do it. Sometimes we go through the Bible and we read verses and we read principles

and we read right through and there is a word in there that we do not really completely understand what it means. Then we just go right on and we never bother to pay attention or look it up and see what it means. Then we fool ourselves and kid ourselves into thinking that we are actually living by that Bible principle and we do not even know what the word means. He lists out these things for us and He says, "giving all diligence."

The kids are heading out to camp, right? Bob was talking about it. He is coming out in a few weeks and I think they know this. We give memory verses during camp to memorize every day and there is a point system and the kids kind of compete against each other. It is a great thing, but we always give them a verse leading up to camp. So that very first night we drill them. We hit them that first night with that first verse. This year, and if I am wrong, do not anybody correct me because you are going to mess my point up, but it is Hebrews 11:6. Am I right? Is it? Okay.

Hebrews 11:6

But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Go up to your kids and ask them, "What is your memory verse for camp?" "Hebrews 11:6." "Okay, great. You have been working on it?" "Oh yeah, absolutely. Yeah, yeah, yeah." "Do you have faith?" "Yes, absolutely." "Do you diligently seek Him?" "Yes, I do. I diligently seek Him." "Do you know what diligently means?" "No." That is the way we are. We do not know what the words mean sometimes. So when you see a phrase here and He is given us these commandments and He says there are seven things I want you to add, but He says to do it with all diligence, we better make sure that we know what that word means.

What does diligence mean? It means to show great care for one's work. It means conscientious in one's duties, hardworking, meticulous, painstaking, rigorous, thorough. There are other words that are synonyms for that word too that you can use. But the bottom line is this, when you look that word up and you understand what it truly means, what you see is that it is going to take work. It is going to take you putting your nose to the grindstone and going to work a little bit to add these things into your life. It does not just happen like all the things that change about you the day you got saved. That gives you the foundation. Like I said, that gives you the ability to become everything God wants you to become. But after that, it is up to you. It is up to what are you going to do? And He says, "giving all diligence," you have got to put some work into it. You have got to put some work into it.

One other thought before we get into this first one. One thing that you will notice as we go through these is that these seven things represent a process. They are a progression. All seven of them build on the previous one. If you do not get one, you can forget about the next one or any of the others after that. You have got to build them and you have got to build them in order. You cannot just randomly say, "Oh, that one looks good. I will add that into my life." Because you are not going to get number five if you have not gotten number one, two, three, and four. So it is a process.

III. Adding Virtue

Let us jump into it here and we are going to talk about these things. The first one that He says here in 2 Peter 1:5, He says, "and beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue." So the first thing that we are to add is virtue. That is another one of those words. We do not really use all that much. It is actually only in the Bible a couple of times. I think it is in the New Testament, maybe five or six times. But virtue is high moral standards. It is doing what is right, emphasis on the word doing what is right. We think about virtue and a lot of times we think of it just as a character quality. It is a character quality, but there are actions associated with that character quality. Virtue is about what we do for the Lord.

Philippians 4:8-9 says:

Philippians 4:8-9

Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.

What He tells us, all of these things to think on, and virtue is at the end of that list. Then He says, "those things which ye have both heard and received and heard and seen in me," He says, "do." That is the word that always trips us up. It is that little two-letter word "do" that we see in the Bible where God tells us, "Do not just be hearers of the word, be doers of the word." It does not matter that you are here every Sunday morning and every Thursday night soaking up all the Bible teaching and all the Bible doctrine that you can get, if you are not actually out doing anything for God, if you are not actually out doing anything for the Lord that died for you and has saved you, it is all worthless and it does not mean anything. He says all of the things that you have received and that you have heard, you have to do it.

If you go back to 2 Peter 1:3, at the end of that He says, "that hath called us to glory and virtue." So two callings that He says there that He calls us to. The first one, "called to glory." That is a future calling. We do not get glory here on this earth. If we seek it for ourselves, we are outside of the fellowship of God because even the Holy Spirit Himself did not seek glory for Himself. The only thing the Holy Spirit ever did was sought to glorify God. So that call to glory is a future calling.

Romans 8:18

For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

That is at the rapture of the church. That is that time where we get to go home to be with the Lord and that is when the glory gets revealed in us. That is when we get our glorified bodies and we become like Him. The Bible says we shall see Him as He is at that time. That is that future calling to glory.

But the second thing He says, "to virtue," that is a present calling. That is a present calling. That deals with what we do on this earth right now, today, every day of our lives until we get to that point that He brings us home.

Titus 2:12

Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

He tells us in this present world that we are living in, God has called us to live soberly and godly and righteously and to do some things for Him. That is what this virtue is. This first thing that you have to add after you get saved is you have got to go out and do. You want another backup for it? We get Proverbs chapter 31, the virtuous woman. Everybody loves to talk about the virtuous woman and Bob preached about her a little bit last week and I figured about 2021 when we get to Proverbs chapter 31, he is going to lay the whole thing out again. He does not mind me doing that, I do not think. I hope. We will find out later.

But if you look at the virtuous woman, this is not just, "Oh, she is a virtuous woman. She has virtue. That is great. I want to be a virtuous woman. I am going to be virtuous." What does that mean? Look at the chapter.

- Proverbs 31:12: She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life.
- Proverbs 31:13: Worketh willingly with her hands.
- Proverbs 31:14: Bringeth her food from afar.
- Proverbs 31:15: Giveth meat to her household.
- Proverbs 31:16: Buyeth the field, planteth the vineyard.
- Proverbs 31:17: Girdeth her loins.
- Proverbs 31:19: Layeth her hands to the spindle.
- Proverbs 31:20: Stretcheth out her hand to the poor.
- Proverbs 31:21: Her household is clothed.
- Proverbs 31:22: Maketh herself coverings of tapestry.
- Proverbs 31:24: Maketh fine linen, delivereth girdles.
- Proverbs 31:26: Openeth her mouth with wisdom.
- Proverbs 31:27: Looketh well to the ways of her household.

Look at that list. It says she is a virtuous woman, and then look at what it says. It says, "do, worketh, bringeth, giveth, buyeth, planteth, girdeth, layeth, stretcheth, clothed, maketh, delivereth, openeth, looketh." Oprah would say, "Girl, you have been busy." Is that a good impersonation of Oprah? Is that all right? Is her show still on? I do not know. It does not matter. Virtue involves doing some things. Virtue is going out and doing something for the Lord. It is going out and working with your hands. It is all of these things that were just listed. We think of virtue as just this sort of nebulous kind of concept. "Okay, virtue, yes. I will just think good things. I will be virtuous." You cannot be virtuous. Virtue is what you do. So the first thing after you get saved, He says, "Go out and go to work. Go and do something." You have too many Christians that are just sitting around soaking up the Bible, taking up all this knowledge, and they are not doing anything. Young Christians a lot of times will say, "Well, I cannot go out and do

this. I cannot go out and serve because I do not know enough about the Bible." God does not tell you to find out anything about the Bible yet. The first thing He says is just go and do. He says virtue. The first thing that you add is virtue. You just get busy and you get going. It does not matter what you know at first.

IV. Adding Knowledge

Because what comes next? What comes after virtue? Let us look at our second thing. He says, "and to virtue, knowledge." So you start with virtue. You start by getting your butt out there and getting moving. You go find something to do. You get your hands busy doing something for the Lord. Then you start to get knowledge. Then you get into the book and you start to learn some things.

This knowledge here that He is talking about is not just any knowledge. It is obviously the knowledge of God.

2 Peter 3:18

But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

Grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. That is the knowledge He is talking about.

Colossians 1:10

That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;

So this is the knowledge that we are then to add. Here we add virtue. We are now to add knowledge and it is the knowledge of God. Again, it is on you, right? How are you going to get that knowledge? You are going to get that knowledge by going to work and doing something.

2 Timothy 2:15

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

We know and we find very clearly that you are not going to get the knowledge of God by just sitting around and just trying to soak it up. That is interesting because we get plenty of knowledge around here. But He says, "study to show thyself approved." So there is an action involved even with that. You have got to go to work even on what you get here on a Sunday morning or on a Thursday night or as you go through discipleship or if you are going through discipleship 2 or you are in a people ministry or you are in a youth group or whatever it is, anything that you get taught, you have got to go to work and you have got to study it. You have got to get that thing into your life. You have got to get that stuff into your heart so it becomes second nature.

There is a problem inherent with knowledge and we know this in 1 Corinthians 8:1. He says:

1 Corinthians 8:1

Now as touching things offered unto idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffeth up, but charity edifieth.

So we know that there is a danger that is there with knowledge. If you get too much knowledge, you can be lifted up and you can be puffed up with pride. Billy Sunday once said, "The Bible will always be full of things you cannot understand as long as you will not live according to those you can understand." The problem with us is that we do not do the things that we know. It goes back to what I talked about earlier where He says these things that you have seen and heard and received, do. We have got to go and we have got to do those things. We have got to live those things.

We end up a lot of times, it is like a horse pulling a cart. You take somebody that has got all zeal and no knowledge, it is like the horse pulling an empty cart. When a horse takes off running, that cart is swaying all over the place behind the horse and eventually you are going to have an accident. That horse is going to take a corner, that cart is going to go flipping over and you have got a problem. You start out with the zeal, you have got the horse and he is running Mach 2 but the cart is empty so you start learning the Bible. You start learning the Bible and then you add 50 pounds, 100 pounds, 200 pounds of knowledge of God into the back of that cart. Now it is stable. Now that horse can take off running and he can run pretty fast but that cart is not wobbling all over the place because it is balanced out. You have got the horse going and you have got the cart filled up with knowledge. That is what we are supposed to be.

Now on the opposite side, you can have a problem there too. If you are all knowledge and no zeal, now you have got a cart that is so heavy you can barely move it and you have got a horse that is lame or dead and the cart just sits there and it does not go anywhere and that does not do anybody any good. You have got to have both. You have got to have that zeal. That is your service for God. That is virtue. That is number one that He lays out here and then you have got to add knowledge and you have got to add Bible knowledge to it so when you get there, you can do something with what God wants you to do when you get where He wants you to go. But you have got to balance those two things out.

V. Adding Temperance

What is number three on our list? Number three, we add virtue and then we add knowledge. Number three He says, "and to knowledge, temperance." What a great progression God is laying out for us here, the way these things fit together. What is temperance? Temperance is self-control. It is moderation. It is balance. Temperance is having a balance in all things. Obviously, I do not need to spend too much time on temperance. Bob did a phenomenal job over several weeks laying out balance out of the book of Proverbs and how we need to have a balance in every aspect of our lives. But being temperate, having that balance in our lives is absolutely vital.

When you study in science class and you talk about climates, there is the temperate zone, right? The temperate zone, the key attribute of it is there are no extremes. It does not get too hot in the summer. It does not get too cold in the winter. It is kind of even keel. It sort of stays in that middle zone. That is where we are supposed to be spiritually. We are supposed to be temperate. We get into trouble because as Christians, we get out of balance. We do not have the virtue. We do not have the works that we are supposed to be doing. We do not build the knowledge of God into our lives. Then we cannot get that balance that we have to get. So then we are up and then we are down. One day we are high and the next day we are low. One day we are happy. The next day something goes wrong in our lives and we are sad. We live in the extremes. But God does not want us living in the extremes. God says be temperate. You have got to be even keeled. Because you know what? Sometimes things are going to go wrong in your life. You have got to be prepared to handle that. Sometimes things are going to go great. You cannot risk getting too high because when you do that, you will forget about the little things that you have got to pay attention to. The devil sneaks in the back door and messes everything up. You have got to be temperate in all these things. Being temperate helps keep everything in a proper perspective for you. Being temperate in all things helps keep you so when something does go wrong, you can keep the right perspective. You can look at it in light of what God thinks about it and what God says about it. You do not get too upset about those things.

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.

And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.

I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air:

But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

Paul tells us here that spiritually we are in a race. We are running a race and we are running to obtain a prize someday, hopefully. That is a judgment seat of Christ. In verse 25 He says, "and every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things." Anything that you ever want to be good at, you have got to be temperate in all things. You have to have a balance in your life. If you want to be a good baseball player, you have to work on every skill involved in the game of baseball. You cannot just work on hitting and go to the batting cages all day long. You can become the greatest hitter in the world, but you will never get on the field if you cannot catch and run and throw. You have got to work on it all. So this is what He is talking about. Spiritually you have got to be temperate in all things. You have to maintain an even keel and be balanced. You have got to get the whole counsel of the Word of God and be able to live by all of the different principles that are in it so you can maintain that balance in your life.

Bob is the best example for us this week that we could possibly have about the importance of balance. I think you guys all know what happened to him, but he had maybe the worst case of

vertigo that you could possibly have. He got so sick on Tuesday that literally if he moved six inches, he would start throwing up. He got so sick and he was so dizzy. Something was going on in his inner ear that literally he did not have the ability physically to be balanced. The result of that is it knocked him completely out of commission. All he could do was lay still in bed and even in that he was sick of his stomach. But if he moved even a little bit, everything fell apart.

We get spiritual vertigo a lot of times in our lives. We get spiritual vertigo where something goes off kilter inside of our brain and we lose the ability to have everything balanced out and spiritually we become useless. Our body cannot go anywhere. We lose, I mean everything just falls apart on us. So we have got to maintain that balance. You have got to get the virtue. You have got to get some things going in your lives. You have got to get out and get busy. If you do not go to work and start doing something for the Lord, you are just going to fall right back into the world or you are just going to fall into old habits of your own and you are going to start justifying everything that you do. You will start justifying the things that you miss, the ministry opportunities that you miss out on. You will tell yourself that it is fine and in your mind you will convince yourself that because you had a legitimate reason for not being there, that it is like you were really there. That is how you get so far away that you just lose touch with everything. So you have got to get into it and then you have got to get knowledge. You have got to add that Bible. You have got to get those principles into your lives working for you and then you get a balance. Then you build that balance into your lives where you can now negotiate troubled waters and you can negotiate difficult circumstances because you have got virtue, you have got knowledge and now you are temperate. You do not live in those extremes. You are not in the highs and you are not in the lows.

VI. Adding Patience

Let us look at the next thing because after temperance He tells us, He says, "and to temperance, patience." So we add virtue and then knowledge and then temperance and now He says, "add patience." Listen, there is only one way that you get patience. You get patience by going through troubles. You get patience by going through some stuff.

Romans 5:3-5

And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;

And patience, experience; and experience, hope:

And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

Do we glory in tribulations? I just stopped there. That is not part of my point, but really, I mean, no. We whine and complain and cry when we get tribulations. We are a bunch of babies. Paul says here, He says, "we glory in tribulation also." Why do we glory? "Knowing that tribulation worketh patience." There is a purpose. There is a benefit that comes from the tribulation. He says, "Why do we glory in tribulations?" Paul is not just a sadist. He is not a glutton for punishment. He is like, "Oh yeah, thank you, sir. Give me another." He glories in tribulation

because he knows there is a payoff. He says tribulation worketh patience. In verse 4, "and patience experience and experience hope, and hope maketh not ashamed." What is He talking about there when He says, "hope maketh not ashamed?" He is talking about the judgment seat of Christ. He is saying, if you get this, you get tribulation in your life so it works patience, then patience experience and experience hope, and then it maketh not ashamed. It means that you get that in your life, and when you are standing at the judgment seat of Christ, you do not have to worry about being ashamed and standing naked before Him because you have gone through some things. You have laid your neck out on the line, and you have gone to work for the Lord, and you have taken the hint about some things, and you have gone through some troubles, and God has given you patience as a result.

That word patience in your Bible many times gets translated as endure. Many times in the Bible, it is the same word.

James 1:12

Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

So if you endure that temptation, it says you are going to be blessed.

James 1:3

Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.

I do not find any other verses in the Bible that says you get patience any other way. You cannot just dream it up. You cannot just say, "I am just going to have patience. I am just going to be patient. I am going to get patience." You have got to go through some troubles. You know what? Some of us never get to that point. You know why we never get to that point? Because we do not add virtue. We do not add knowledge. We do not add temperance. God never bothers to send us any tribulation because He knows that it will not do any good and we cannot handle it. Because if we do not have the first three, you cannot get patience. So God does not bother even putting us through the wringer because He knows what we are made of or I should say what we are not made of.

You remember number two, we talked about knowledge. Philippians 3:10, what does He say? He talks about, He says:

Philippians 3:10

That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;

So you know Him and then you know the power of His resurrection and then you need to know the fellowship of His sufferings. If we want to really serve the Lord, we really want to get to where God wants us to be, we are going to have to go through some things. But you have got to prepare yourself so you can be ready to go through those things. We are a bunch of wimps. I talked earlier about the fact that we do not glory in tribulations the way that we should. Bob

Jones Sr. once said, "Do not ask God to give you a lighter burden. Ask Him to give you strong shoulders to carry a heavy burden." We spend too many times on our knees praying for the Lord to take away our burdens. I do not see too many times where God tells us to do that. We should be on our knees praying about it saying, "Lord, give me the shoulders that are strong enough that I need to carry the burden that You have given me. And oh by the way if You see fit, make them a little stronger so You can give me some more, so You can put a little bit more on me. Make me as strong as I need to be so You can put as much on me as You want to put on me." Because that is what Jesus did. He bore more of a burden than I am ever going to bear. There is joy in that.

I have heard Bob tell the story, you guys have probably all heard him tell the story about had a guy come up to him one time kind of pious I think and he said something like, "Brother, are you enjoying your Christian walk or are you enduring?" And his answer was great. He said, "I am enjoying my enduring," because you are going to endure some things if you are going to serve the Lord. But He says enjoy it.

Hebrews 12:2

Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Christ enjoyed His enduring. Believe it or not as horrible as it was when He hung on that cross and my name went through His mind and all the rotten things that I was going to do in my life. He enjoyed that. It says for the joy that was set before Him because He did it because He loved me. He did it because He wanted to save me. So He endured the cross for the joy that was set before Him. So we have got to get that same attitude. We have got to get to the point where we can actually enjoy the enduring of the trials that God puts in our lives. That we can actually enjoy the struggles that God gives to us because we know that it works patience. Because we know that it is going to get us where God wants us to be.

VII. Adding Godliness

Let us look at the next thing. He says, "and to patience godliness." This is a pretty simple one. Godliness very simply put is being like God. It is not a very hard word to understand. This is not one you typically have to look up in the dictionary. It means Godlikeness. It means being like God. It is literally getting God's mind. This Bible, we know that the Bible says that this is God's mind. This is the idiot in here and my job if I am going to become godly is to take the idiot and push him out and take God's mind and put it in. It is really not very much harder than that. I mean it is hard but it is not complicated. It is very simple. It is a simple process. The problem is we are just too lazy or too dishonest to really do it. Because we like the idiot. We live with the idiot every day. We have been with him. I have been with him my whole life and we are kind of fond of the idiot that lives inside of our brain. We need to get a little bit less fond of ourselves and a little bit more fond of this book and take this mind and replace our mind with it. That is what Godliness is. It is getting to the point that you actually think like God. It is not just knowing some things about God. It is not just, and they are great things, but it is not just being able to lay out the tribulation and giving every cross reference in the Bible that points to it and laying out

Daniel's 70th week and all of those things that are great things to study and absolutely vital for any Christian to understand because Paul says we are not to be ignorant of the times and the seasons. We are supposed to know those things. But what is more important is getting to the point that I actually think like God, that I actually see things the way God sees them, that I actually respond to things the way God would respond them, that I actually answer questions the way God would answer them. That is the key. That is the key to Godliness.

But like all the other things, it is going to require work on our part. It is going to require work. You just cannot get around it. This is not something that just happens naturally. Godliness is not one of the seven things that changes about you the day you got saved. You have to add godliness. He gives you the ability to do it, but it is on you to do it.

1 Timothy 4:7-8

But refuse profane and old wives' fables, and exercise thyself rather unto godliness.

For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.

So He says you have to exercise yourself unto godliness. It is going to take work on your part. Verse 8 says, "for bodily exercise profited little, amen." That is one of my favorite verses in the Bible. Every time Jamie is like, "Don't you want to get up and move a little bit?" "Bodily exercise profited little, woman. Go get me an ice cream cone." Oh, gosh. Anyway, "bodily exercise profited little, but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come." It is going to take work. We have to exercise ourselves to godliness.

Titus 1:1 tells us that it is only produced by the truth of the Word of God. That is the only way that you can get it. The only way that you can get godliness is to take the things of the Bible and replace your mind, your dirty old rotten sinful mind with the pure thoughts of God's mind, with the principles of the Word of God so that when somebody comes to you and they have a problem or they have a question, your natural response is to give them a biblical principle. Your natural response is to tell them, "Well, this is what the Bible says." It is not to say, "Oh, yeah, well, I think you should do this. Yeah, that is, you know, yeah. I mean, you are, you know, look, you are only human. It is okay. It is all right. I understand where you are coming from. It is okay if you miss that. It is okay if you do that." No, you should simply say, "Well, this is what the Bible says." The Bible says, "Forsake not the assembling of yourselves together." So you are going to ask me a question whether I think you should do this or I would do that, or if I think you should take this job that is going to take you out of church and it is going to cause you to miss three out of every four Sundays. I am not going to say, "Well, you know, you have got to put food on a table." I am going to say, "Well, I do not know. I mean, this is what the Bible says. Seems to me, maybe God would give you a better job. Maybe God could give you something different to get where you could be there on Sundays, where you need to be, where you could be there on Thursdays, where you need to be." That is where we have to be. I am not bragging on myself. I am saying that is where we should all be. That is when somebody asks us a question that should be our response. It should be biblical. It should be scriptural. It should not just be, "Well, I think

this, I think that," because I do not care what you think. I do not care what I think. You should not care what I think. The only thing that should matter is what does the book say? What is the principle? What is the principle behind it? We get it every Sunday morning, every Thursday night that Bob gets up here and preaches. He hammers it on us every single week. Sometimes we just do not get it that we have got to live by principles. If there is not a principle behind what you are doing, then why on earth are you doing it? Because it is not God-like. It is not godliness. Godliness is getting His mind in your mind.

VIII. Adding Brotherly Kindness

Let us look at the next one. I do not like this one too much, but we are going to talk about it anyway. He says, "and to godliness, brotherly kindness." I find it very interesting because this is a progression. Remember, you see as God builds these things in here, I find it very interesting that He puts brotherly kindness after godliness. That God literally is telling us you have to become godly before you can have brotherly kindness. That is how awful we are. That is how terrible we are. If we are honest, and I will be honest, this is one that I think most of us would probably like to skip. Brotherly kindness is one that I think a lot of times, I do not know. Let us go on to that last one. But it is in here so we do not get to skip it. He tells us that we need to add it.

Romans 12:10

Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;

How many of us prefer everybody else around us in this church versus ourselves? I do not know if I do it all that often. "Preferring one another." He says, "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love." It is funny, nobody gets too uncomfortable when you talk about brotherly love unless it is like Caitlyn Jenner type brotherly love. Then it gets awkward. But you just talk about brotherly love. Nobody squirms. It is like, "Oh yeah, brotherly love. We should love one another. Yes, that is great. I love everybody. I love everybody in this church. Every single one of them." But the problem is that is because we have lost the meaning of the word love. The word love nowadays does not mean what it means in the Bible. Not the way that we use it anyway. We love everything. We love our shoes. We love our car. We love that movie we saw last week. We love our house. We love those jeans. We love the Jayhawks. Well, wait a minute. That one actually is okay. You can love the Jayhawks. It is very clear that God loves the Jayhawks because if He did not, they would not be so good. Now, I have been praying about the football team. I do not know what is going on there, but we might find out at the judgment seat. We might find out someday in eternity. But I know God loves the Jayhawks. It is okay to love the Jayhawks, but everything else, we love too many things in this world. We lose sight of what the word means. It is just a word that we use. There are no actions attached to it like there are when you come to the biblical definition of love. So that way to your face, it is, "Oh, I love you, brother." And then behind your back, it is like, "That no good son of a..." Thank you. Thank you for that honesty because that is how we all are. Let us just be real. We will, to each other's face, "Oh, I love you. I love you so much. Yep. I love you." And then off to the side, it is, "Man, that guy is such a jerk. That lady is such a jerk. I mean, ugh, get on my nerves."

Look, kindness is defined as the quality of being friendly. So He does not say here to add brotherly love. He says to add brotherly kindness. Obviously they are tied directly together, but what He is basically saying here is, yes, you actually have to like each other as Christians. Yeah. It is funny how, of all the things that make us uncomfortable, but that is one that we just do not really want to, we do not really want to go down that road because, you know, we like having our little pet peeves. We forgive ourselves all the time for allowing ourselves to get upset at each other. We all allow ourselves to have a few people that we just, "I just do not like that guy. I just do not like that girl," and we tell each other, we justify it. Here is how we do it. I have said this before a million times, "You know, I love him. I really do. I love him. I just do not like him." That is not scriptural and that is not biblical. I am sorry to tell you. He says, "add brotherly kindness." You do not get to say, "I love him. I just do not really like him." See that is easy because I can say I love him, but there are no actions attached to that. I have to like him. I have to like her. It does not matter that they do something that might get on my nerves. Guess what? I do things that get on other people's nerves. I do all kinds of things that get on other people's nerves.

I am going to tell you the number one thing that will help you in this area and makes me mad every time she does it. Jamie does this to me all the time. We are having a conversation like, "Man, that guy is such a jerk." And she says, "Oh, really? Have you been praying for him about it?" Like, "Uh, something the Bible say for the women to keep silence in there. I know I read that. I know I read that somewhere." I am telling you guys that is the thing. That is the key. You have got a problem with somebody. You have got an attitude problem towards somebody. You get on your knees and you start praying for them. You get on your knees and you start praying for those people in your life that get on your nerves that you do not like very much for some reason. They did something that you do not like. They did something that bothers you. They got on your nerves. Somehow you get on your knees and you start praying for them, and your perspective changes about them. You start seeing them in a different way. Because what happens when you get to that point is you begin to realize and you sort of remember that you are kind of a jerk too. There are lots of things for people to not like about me. So what right do I have to walk around and start acting like and telling myself that it is okay for me to not like this person or for me to not like that person because they do this or they do that. Now I am not saying you go around and just say everything everybody does is fine and it is all good and it is kumbaya. That is not my point. But my point is I am commanded to have brotherly kindness. I cannot snub somebody just because they have a little personality quirk that does not jive with the way I like to be and with who I like to be around.

The bottom line is this: No matter what someone says or does to you, if you have godliness which precedes brotherly kindness and you are not here on our list, you will forgive them the way that God forgives us. Bob says this all the time, "If you can forgive, you can forget. If you cannot forgive, you can forget it." That is absolutely true. If you can forgive, then you can forget. If you cannot forgive, you can forget it. We have got to forgive people the way God forgives us and thank the Lord God forgives us that way. Amen? There are no exceptions when it comes to God's forgiveness. Thank God He did not make any exceptions in His world because I would have been the exception. I would have been the one because I did not deserve to be forgiven for

my sins. I did not deserve to be cleansed for my sins. So thank God that when He chose to forgive us, that it was unconditional and He did not make exceptions in His world. So I will forgive all them but not that guy. I do not like him. We do not get to make exceptions in our lives if we are godly, if we have godliness, we have brotherly kindness. That means everybody. That means every Christian that God puts around us, everybody in this body, we are to have brotherly kindness one to another.

IX. Adding Charity

Let us look at this last one. He says, "and to brotherly kindness, charity." We all know that every modern translation changes that word charity to love and that takes us back to the same problem we just talked about because we have lost the definition of the word love. The proper definition is the love that God showed us at Calvary. It is Romans 5:8 where He says:

Romans 5:8

But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

That is charity. That one is the natural progression following godliness and brotherly kindness that you then add the ability to completely love and completely forgive everybody in your world the way that God does it. Charity is loving the world and loving the people in the world and loving the people in this church and the people in your lives, the people at your work, loving them the way that God loves them. No strings attached, no payment required. Charity is unconditional love that puts everybody else ahead of yourself. Christ showed us charity on the cross because He put our needs above His own. He put our needs above Himself. He put the desire to want to save us and want to forgive us for our sins above His own desire to have that cup pass from Him as He prayed in the garden. He was not willing to forego the cross because of the fact that He loved us. That is the attitude that we have to have. When we approach people, the forgiveness, the love that we have, it has to reach the level of charity. Where it is completely unconditional and it matches and it mimics the love that God showed for us.

X. The Result of Abounding: Never Falling

I have a few more things for you. I want to look at these last few verses in this passage as we conclude. In verses 8 through 10, He tells us just a few more things that I want to close with.

2 Peter 1:8-10

For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.

Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:

In verse 8 He says, "these seven things have to be in you, but they have to abound." They have to have more than you think that you need. Abound means there is more than you can handle. There is more than you can hold. A couple weeks ago, our tables were abounding with loaves of bread. They were like pouring out of the refrigerator all over the place. Hy-Vee gave us so much stuff. That is abounding. It is more than you think that you need. That is where we have to be. You cannot just add a little bit of these things and be successful, and be a successful Christian and really serve the Lord. You cannot just add a little bit. "I will have a little bit of charity. I will have a little bit of godliness." He says these things have to be in you and they have to abound. The result of that is that it says, "it makes you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ." So He tells us here that if you get these seven things in your life and they abound, that you will bear the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22-23. But they have to abound if you are going to get to that point.

Then verse 9 He says:

2 Peter 1:9

But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.

"He that hath forgotten these things is blind." So, excuse me, "he that lacketh these things is blind." So if you do not add these things, you just get saved and then you just stand pat, you are just content, "Hey, I am saved, I am on my way to heaven, praise the Lord. And I am going to sit in church every Sunday and I am not going to bother doing anything for the Lord. I am not going to add virtue. I am not going to bother studying the Bible and add knowledge. I am not going to add temperance in my life. I am not going to add patience. I am not going to add godliness or brotherly kindness. I am not going to add charity. I am not going to do any of those things." God says if you lack these things, He says you are blind and you have two basic problems with this blindness.

1. You cannot see afar off. So you become a short-sighted Christian at that point. You become blind and you cannot see down the road. You cannot see down into the future. You become very short-sighted and you cannot see the long-term effect of the things that you do and you get into that rut and that pattern where you make one bad decision after the next because you literally do not have the ability to see long-term. Forget about the idea of thinking about the long-term before you make your decision on the short-term. God says if you do not have these things, you cannot see the long-term. That is why you make rotten decisions. That is why you get yourself into trouble because every decision that you make is only based on the short-term because all you can see is your hand in front of your face. You cannot see the impact, the effect that it has. You cannot see the impact of the decisions that you make with your kids now when they are six, seven, eight, nine years old and the impact that it is going to have when they are 16, 17, 18 years old and they walk out into the world because you compromise everything in your walk in your life with the Lord Jesus Christ and with His book while they were young and you built no foundation in their life and then you wonder when they are 19 years old and they run out into the world and they do nothing for the Lord

because you are blind. You have not added these things into your life and you cannot see that far off. All you see is the here and the now and you do not think about it and you cannot see the impact in the long-term of the decisions that you make in the short-term.

2. The second thing that He says, the problem if you lack these things, the last part of verse 9, He says, "and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins." He says you literally forget what Christ did for you on a cross. You literally forget the fact that you have been purged from your sins. You forget the sacrifice that Christ made. You forget what He did for you. You forget what He saved you from. You forget where you should be going someday and the fact that you are going to heaven instead because you have not added these seven things and you just stagnated as a Christian.

I am going to close with this. Let us look at verse 10 and this has to be, as we talk about these exceeding great precious promises, this has to be one of the greatest promises in all of the Bible. Now understand, this promise is contingent on everything we just talked about. This promise is contingent on all of these seven things that He tells us to add and the fact that we have to actually do work to add these things into our lives. But look at what He says here in verse 10.

2 Peter 1:10

Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:

"If you do these things, ye shall never fall." What an amazing promise. I mean, that is all we ever want is, I mean, how many times do we get down our knees and we pray is like, "Lord, I just keep screwing up, Lord, please help me. I keep falling, I keep falling into sin, I keep getting messed up, I keep struggling, Lord, please help me to stop falling. Please help me to stop letting You down." He tells us right here how to do it. It is a promise, it is not a suggestion here. He is not saying this might happen or it might not happen. Not the way we are. He tells us unequivocally, "If you do these things, ye shall never fall." So you go to work, you get saved, and then you make the decision to go to work. How? With all diligence. It is hard work, it is painstaking, it is laborious, it is rigorous, it is not going to be easy. But you put work into it. You spend every second of every day, every ounce of energy that you have, you pour into trying to add these seven things into your life: virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness and charity. The result is, the payoff is you will never fall. You will never let the Lord down, He says. He says if you really get all of these things in your life, you will never fall. What an amazing thing.