

2: Faith (2 Peter 1:5)

Second Peter 1:5 says, "So make every effort to apply the benefits of these promises to your life. Then your **faith** will produce a life of moral excellence" (emphasis mine).

We learned in Lesson One that all things pertaining to life and godliness are given to us through the power of Christ. This includes the gift of faith. In Hebrews 11:1 faith is described as "*the confident assurance that what we hope for is going to happen.*" It is also described as "*the evidence of things we cannot yet see.*" Faith is not simply waiting for God to work in the future; it is making a commitment to trust God now and to actively participate in His will.

Diligent Faith

In the New King James Version 2 Peter 1:5 says, "*Giving all diligence, add to your faith.*" The word for "*diligence*" in the Greek is also translated as "eagerness" (zeal, enthusiasm). How are we to be eager in our faith?

Synonyms for the word "*faith*" are confidence, trust, reliance, assurance, conviction, belief, devotion, and loyalty. How does faith grow? Read Romans 10:10, 17 and 1 Peter 1:6-9. List your answers.

Although faith develops in these ways, zealousness and enthusiasm also come from growing in intimacy with the Lord. Confidence, assurance, and belief increase as we comprehend God's faithfulness to us.

According to the following passages, how is God's faithfulness shown?

- Isaiah 41:10, 43:2 _____
- Romans 8:38-39 _____
- Lamentations 3:22-24 _____
- Deuteronomy 31:8 _____
- 1 John 5:14-15 _____

With the above passages in mind, what are the benefits of believing God's Word?

What action word is given in 2 Peter 1:5?

James 2:14 says, "Dear brothers and sisters, what's the use of saying you have faith if you don't prove it by your actions? That kind of faith can't save anyone." Read James 2:21-24.

Read Hebrews 11:1-40. How did the individuals listed in this passage become people of great faith? Specifically, how did God test their faith?

Can you relate to their trials? Which ones? _____

How did they actively participate in God's will? Write the action words beside each name.

- Noah _____
- Abraham _____
- Isaac _____
- Joseph _____
- Moses _____

Read Romans 4:18-22. How did their commitment to trust God transform them?

How can the Lord do the same in our walk?

Keeping their eyes on God (Hebrews 11:27), they:

- **Made a choice to trust in God's purposes.** Read Jeremiah 29:11. (Conversion)
- **Were willing to do what God said—even when they didn't understand His purpose or know the outcome.** Read Isaiah 55:8-9. John 3:31-33 says, "My understanding is limited to the things of earth... those who believe him discover that God is true." (Obedience)
- **Disregarded difficulties.** They understood that God is mightier than all obstacles! Read 1 John 5:4-5. (Trust)
- **Remained committed and steadfast.** They waited. They endured. Read Hebrews 12:1-4. (Abide)
- **Were willing to sacrifice** what the Lord asked of them—reputation, relationships, possessions. Luke 1:26-38. (Surrender)
- **Set their eyes on the fulfillment of His promises.** God is true to His Word. Read Philipians 1:6. (Believe)

Add to Your Faith: Faith

By trusting in God, "*their weaknesses were turned to strength.*" Do you believe that God can do this for you? Can you walk by faith and not by sight (2 Corinthians 5:7)?

In closing, read Galatians 3:6-9.

Add to Your Faith: Faith

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