

"The Ingredients for Your Spiritual Supplement" 2 Peter 1:5-11

ETS: Peter told believers what they need to add to their faith to avoid being useless

ESS: We need to add to our faith to avoid being useless in the knowledge of God

OSS: I want people to add to their faith these ingredients

PQ: Are you supplementing your faith?

UW: Ingredients

ME

Hello Fresh....

- Supply the ingredients
- Supply the instructions
- Result: A Tasty Dish; a new experience

Reality:

- It does take about an **hour** to put the dish together
- It does take some **work**
- It requires a **constant evaluation** of *"Am I doing this right"*
- It does have an element of surprise: *"Are we going to like this dish."*

To make the meal, you have to combine the ingredients together.

GOD

Context: Believers

- Peter is writing “To those who have received a faith equal to ours” (1 Peter 1:1)
 - Peter is writing to people of FAITH!

CHALLENGE: To “*Supplement*” or “*Add to*” your **FAITH**

Supplement Your Faith

WHY do you need to *Supplement your faith*?

- Isn't **FAITH** in Christ **enough**?

It depends on what you mean by “**Enough**”!

- Placing your faith in Christ alone is “*Enough*” for your **salvation**
 - Placing your faith in Christ alone requires **humility**
 - Placing your faith in Christ alone **trust**
 - Placing your faith in Christ alone **repentance**

There are **BENEFITS** to your Faith in Christ

- **Benefit: 2 Peter 1:2** “May grace and peace be **multiplied** to you through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.”
 - Benefit: Grace and Peace
- **Benefit: 2 Peter 1:3** “His divine power has given us everything required for life and godliness through the knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.”
 - **Benefit:** You have everything required for life and godliness
- **Benefit: 2 Peter 1:4** “By these he has given us very great and precious promises, so that through them you may share in the divine nature, escaping the corruption that is in the world because of evil desire.
 - **Benefit:** You are the recipient of very great and precious promises!

Your Faith in Christ gave you these **BENEFITS!**

Faith in Christ alone is the KEY INGREDIENT, but your faith in Christ needs to be “**supplemented**” if you want to be useful.

- Peter says in **2 Peter 1:8-11** “For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being useless or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. The person who lacks these

things is blind and shortsighted and has forgotten the cleansing from his past sins. 10 Therefore, brothers and sisters, make every effort to confirm your calling and election, because if you do these things you will never stumble. 11 For in this way, entry into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be richly provided for you.”

WHAT will be the **RESULTS** of “Supplementing our Faith”?

Benefit of Supplementing your Faith: Productivity (v. 8)

V. 8: “they (the things we need to add to our faith) will keep you from being useless or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ”

Benefit of Supplementing your Faith: Clarity (v. 9)

V. 9: The person who lacks these things (the Supplements) is blind and shortsighted

Benefit of Supplementing your Faith: Humility (v. 9)

V. 9: The person who lacks these things ...has forgotten the cleansing from his past sins.”

Benefit of Supplementing your Faith: Stability (v. 10)

V. 10: if you do these things you will never stumble.

Benefit of Supplementing your Faith: Joy (v. 11)

V. 11: entry into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be richly provided for you

Do you want to live life experiencing **Productivity, Clarity, Humility, Stability** and **Joy**?

IF so,

Supplement Your Faith

The word “**supplement**” in the original language of the Bible is the word from which we get the **English word “Chorus” or Choreography**”

- The ancient Greeks would establish a chorus-a group of singers-but the director was responsible for training the choir and paying their expenses.
 - So the word, referred to someone who provides for and supports something.

Supplementing your Faith is CRUCIAL!

- Crucial to the **health** of your faith
- Crucial to growing **spiritually** strong
- Crucial to **assurance** of **salvation**
- Crucial enjoying **grace and peace**
- Crucial to enjoying an **abundant** life
- Crucial to living a life of **godliness**

- Crucial to being a **servant of Christ**
- Crucial to your **Foundation** of Faith
- Crucial as your **Face the End!**

What Ingredients do we need to “**Add to**” or “**Supplement**” our faith?

2 Peter 1:5 “**For this very reason** (all the benefits you have received through faith in Christ), **make every effort to supplement your faith with goodness**”

Our Faith is like a “Hello Fresh” Meal

- **Faith = the Purchase**
 - We own the meal, we have the “Hello Fresh” bag

Owning the MEAL is necessary—if we don’t own the meal we can’t make and enjoy the meal!

BUT, to enjoy the meal, we have to **assemble the ingredients** in the bag!

- To “**assemble the ingredients in the bag**” is going to take “**Effort**” on our part!
 - Like Peter says “**make every effort to supplement your faith...**”

Our Faith is like a “Hello Fresh” Meal

- We own the meal, we have the “Hello Fresh” bag
- BUT, we need to combine the ingredients together

Good news is that God has given us all the ingredients we need for “Life and godliness”

- **2 Peter 1:3** His divine power has given us everything required for life and godliness...”

Good news is that if we “make every effort to supplement your faith...” we have “Very great and precious promises” that we will “Escape the corruption of this world! (2 Peter 1:4)

What are the “Ingredients” we need to “Supplement our faith”?

SUPPLEMENT YOUR FAITH WITH GOODNESS

What makes something “good?”

- Why do we say “That was good ice cream?”
- “That was a good show?”
- “That was a good ballgame”
- “We had a good time?”
 - What makes something “good?”

We say something is “**good**” when we think it is a “**quality**” product.

- Quality **ice cream** is **creamy, rich in flavor, and tasty**
- A **game** is **good** when both teams are of **equal quality** and they battle it out to the end.
- You had a “**good time**” when you felt like you got your **monies worth** or your **time** was **well-spent**.

To call something “**good**” it has to be **beyond** the **norm**-it has to **exceed** our **expectations**.

- Something is “**good**” when it is a **notch above the rest!**
 - **Ice Cream** is “**good**” b/c is it **not** gritty, and or bland
 - The **game** is “**good**” because it is not one-sided with one team trouncing the other one!

Supplementing your faith with “**goodness**” means that you have to make a **commitment** to **excellence!**

- Are we talking about “**Excellence**” in **work**? Yes and no!
 - Yes, we should do what we do to the best our ability because we are **working for the Lord**. The Lord is our Master. Offering the Lord our best is an **act of worship**.

- **BUT**, the word is used specifically to refer to **“Moral excellence”**
 - **Some translations** use the word **“virtue”** or **“Moral excellence”**-which is probably a better translation

Why can't we be **“USEFUL/FRUITFUL in the Knowledge of God”** without **virtue**?

- Because we are **not fulfilling** our **purpose**
 - **God didn't save us to be immoral!**

Earlier, we saw that the **RESULTS** in vss. 9-11 of **“Supplementing our Faith”** are:

Productivity, Clarity, Humility, Stability and Joy!

Supplement Faith with “Goodness” = Productivity

When a **Christ-follower** supplements his/her faith with **“Goodness”** or **“Virtue”**, he/she does not **waste time** pursuing things that **numb** the soul, or that **produces dire** consequences.

- He/she does not have to spend weeks, months, perhaps years **paying the consequence of poor moral choices!**

YOU may be paying the **consequences** of **poor moral excellence** in the past!

- *God didn't promise to deliver you from the consequences of PAST Sin*, but rather, He may allow you to face those consequences to **teach** you.
 - HOWEVER, we don't want to REPEAT poor moral failure after becoming a believer!

When we “**Supplement**” our faith with “**Moral excellence**” we can **focus** on using our lives for things that **really matter**-things which **bring glory to God!**

- When a **Christ-follower** builds **moral excellence** on his/her **faith**, he/she does not **waste time** pursuing things that **numb the soul**, or that **produce dire consequences**.
 - He/she does not have to spend weeks, months, perhaps years paying the consequence of poor moral choices!
 - He/she can focus on using his/her life for things that really matter-things which bring glory to God!

How does he/she have productivity?

- **As** he/she **exercises moral excellence**, his/her **knowledge** about what makes for a productive life increases!

Supplement Faith with “Goodness” = Clarity

How do they train bank tellers to determine counterfeit money? By handling the real money!

- Through the experience of handing **real** money, the bank teller can tell when something is wrong!

When a **Christ-follower** builds **moral excellence** on his/her **faith**, he/she begins to see life more **clearly**!

- His/her soul becomes more and more **sensitive** to those things that are not moral excellent
 - He/she begins to see **through** the **allure** and **promises** of those whose goal is not moral excellence
- He/she has **clarity** about the **consequences** of his/her sin!

How does he/she have clarity?

- **As** he/she exercises moral excellence, his/her knowledge about what is morally excellent in God’s sight increases!

Supplement Faith with “Goodness” = Stability

When a **Christ-follower** builds **moral excellence** on his/her **faith**, he/she does flip between bad moral decisions

- He/she is not **swayed** by the **latest fad** or the **“Everyone’s doing it”** argument.

How does he/she have stability?

- As he/she **exercises moral excellence**, his/her knowledge about what choices lead to a stable life increases!

Supplement Faith with “Goodness” = Humility

When a **Christ-follower** builds **moral excellence** on his/her **faith**, it is reflection that he/she understands the sin they are capable of and so he/she has determined to live life a cut above the rest

How does he/she have humility?

- As he/she **exercises moral excellence**, his/her knowledge about his/her propensity to sin and the **gravity of sin** increases

Supplement Faith with “Goodness” = Joy

When a **Christ-follower** builds **moral excellence** on his/her **faith**, joy is the result!

- Joy because he/she is growing closer to God; becoming more like Christ!

How does he/she have joy?

- As he/she **exercises moral excellence**, his/her knowledge about what makes for a **joyful** life increases!

Think about it, have there been periods when you were NOT **“Supplementing your faith with goodness”**?

- When we are **NOT supplementing** our faith with **“goodness”** we are **NOT fruitful** or **useful** to God!
 - WHY? Because we are allowing SIN to be our MASTER!

When we allow **“Sin to be our Master”** our

- **Productivity** for Christ suffers because living in sin **drains** the believer
- Our **clarity** regarding the **consequence** of our sin is **clouded**,
- Our **humility decreases** and we **grow hostile** toward God,
- We **lose** the **joy** of our **salvation**, and

- We become **unstable** in our relationships with God and others.

HOW do you supplement your faith with goodness?

- Don't Live in **immorality!**
 - What is "immoral"?
 - Through the Bible "**immorality**" is any **sexual relationship** outside of a marriage relationship of a man and woman.
- Don't **flirt with Immorality!**
 - Jesus said if you "**look at woman to lust after her you have committed adultery in your heart.**"
- Don't **entertain evil** thoughts
 - Don't be **envious** or **covet**
- Be **Honest** with God and with others

Ingredient #2

SUPPLEMENT YOUR FAITH WITH KNOWLEDGE

2 Peter 1:5 "For this very reason make every effort to supplement your faith with goodness, goodness with knowledge."

- Faith is to be *supplemented* with *goodness* which is to be *supplemented* with *knowledge*!!

Problem: Too often WE think “**usefulness in the knowledge of God**” requires a lot of **book knowledge!**

- **I’m all for book knowledge!**
 - There is a time for **reading** and **study** courses- they have their place
 - But **Peter** is **NOT** talking about **enrolling** in a **Bible Study** class on **Wednesday!**

The word “**knowledge**” here refers to *practical knowledge*.

- The idea is “**knowledge that is growing**”
 - It is the **ability to handle life successfully**
- **Problem:** Too often WE want to **substitute book knowledge** for **practical knowledge!**

To be “**useful in the knowledge of God**” we need to grow in our **knowledge of how** to live out the Christian life **practically**.

Here is how this works:

- Take the **Step of Faith**
- Supplement your faith with “**goodness**”-i.e., virtue
- Supplement your “**goodness**” with *practical knowledge*

Earlier, we saw that the **RESULTS** in **vss. 9-11** of
“**Supplementing our Faith**” are:

Productivity, Clarity, Humility, Stability and Joy!

Supplement “Goodness” with Knowledge = Clarity

As you see the **tragic results** of **indulging the flesh**, you gain practical knowledge

- **Practical knowledge** of the benefits of supplementing your faith with moral virtue
- **Practical knowledge** of **WHY** you want to supplement your faith with moral virtue
- **Practical knowledge** of **HOW** you supplement your faith with moral virtue

You grow in **clarity** about **WHAT** to avoid so you can live out moral virtue...In other words, you are in a position to
“**Supplement your goodness with knowledge**”!

- As you “**Supplement your goodness with knowledge**” you will be **clear** about **RIGHT** and **WRONG**; **GOOD** and **EVIL**

Supplement “Goodness” with Knowledge = Productivity

As you “**Supplement your goodness with knowledge**” you will be productive.

- As you “**Supplement your goodness with knowledge**” you will know **WHAT** to avoid and **WHEN** to avoid things which are **NOT “GOOD!”**
 - By avoiding those circumstances or people, you won’t be derailed and there can be productive in ministering to people!
 - **Supplement your goodness with knowledge**” keeps you from **wasting** your life on **immoral living**—*which only brings heartache, financial loss and maybe even death!*

Supplement “Goodness” with Knowledge = Humility

As you “**Supplement your goodness with knowledge**” you will learn about your own **propensity** to sin!

- Keeping the reality of your own sinfulness before you, enables you to live humbly before God and others!
 - You will not be a **JUDGEMENTAL** person
 - You will not think “Higher of yourself” or have an heir of superiority!
 - You will not think you are able to “**STAND**” against sin on your own; thus you won’t put yourself in positions where you can “fall into sin.”

Supplement “Goodness” with Knowledge = Stability

As you “Supplement your goodness with knowledge” you will know the **target: *a life of godliness!***

- As you “Supplement your goodness with knowledge” you will be **clear** about RIGHT and WRONG; GOOD and EVIL
- A faith supplemented by Goodness which is then supplemented by practical knowledge results in a STABLE person!

Supplement “Goodness” with Knowledge = JOY

JOY=Deep sense of knowing and experiencing God

- Joy is NOT **dependent** upon **circumstances**

As you “Supplement your goodness with knowledge” you will experience JOY!

- WHY? Because you are NOT making immoral choices—which cause a barrier between you and God!
- Because you are NOT making immoral choices—which may result in dire consequences
- Because you are NOT making immoral choices—which may lead to God disciplining you

HOW do you supplement your goodness with Knowledge?

- **Learn** from Personal Experience
- **Learn** from the experience of others in life
- **Learn** from the experience of others in Scripture

Learn by **evaluating!**

- Learn by being honest with the results of “**supplementing your faith with goodness**”
- Learn by being honest with the results of NOT “**supplementing your faith with goodness**”
- Be a student of living out “Goodness” in your life!

YOU

We will unpack the **rest** of the **ingredients** next week!

Your FAITH needs to be supplemented if you want to be “**Useful**” and “**Fruitful**” in the “**knowledge of Christ!**”

- If you want to GROW in your faith—you have to supplement your faith
- If your desire is to hear God say “**Well done, good and faithful servant**” --you have to supplement your faith!
- If you want to enjoy increasing communion with God--you have to supplement your faith!

Your FAITH is the **FOUNDATION**—the starting point

- The “**Supplements**” are the **ingredients** you need to “**Make every effort to add to your faith**” so that you can be “**Fruitful and useful**”

PQ: Are You Supplementing Your Faith with Goodness and Knowledge?

Are you supplementing your faith with **goodness**?

- Is your life a life of **virtue**?
- Are you allowing a **sin to reign** in your life?

If so, you have a deficiency and you are experiencing the **EFFECTS** of your deficiency!

- **EFFECT:** Loss of **Clarity** about what is right and wrong
- **EFFECT:** Loss or **Productivity** –you are “siting and souring”
- **EFFECT:** Loss of **humility**—you may look down on everyone else as a way to make yourself feel better because you feel under conviction about the sin you are letting reign in your life.
- **EFFECT:** Loss of **Stability**. You are not firm in your convictions because to do so would be in conflict with the sin you are allowing in your life!
- **EFFECT:** Loss of **JOY**. You feel distant from God!

PQ: Are You Supplementing Your Faith with Goodness and Knowledge?

Are you supplementing your **goodness with knowledge?**

If NOT, you have a **deficiency** and you are experiencing the EFFECTS of your deficiency!

- **EFFECT:** Loss of **Clarity**. You are not LEARNING from past mistakes/sin!
- **EFFECT:** Loss or **Productivity** –you are “siting and souring” because you have not learned what to do to defeat the sin in your life through Christ!
- **EFFECT:** Loss of **humility**—Lack of knowledge about your own sinful nature leads to pride
- **EFFECT:** Loss of **Stability**. You go with the crowd-the culture. Satan, the “god of this world” has you under his thumb.
- **EFFECT:** Loss of **JOY**. You don’t know God intimately. Your knowledge of God is clouded!

PQ: Are You Supplementing Your Faith with Goodness and Knowledge?

WE