

"The Love 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

Are there some people that just grate you?

I have a very **task-oriented, goal-oriented** personality.

- **Problem:** I have a difficult time dealing with **lazy** people.

I have a **difficult time** feeling sorry for someone who can help themselves but don't.

- I **don't understand** people who **waste time**, who **don't prepare** and who just **don't seem to care**.

You may be the opposite!

- You may be **frustrated** by people who **ARE task-oriented** and goal-oriented.

- You feel that people just need to “lighten up” and “enjoy life”

WE

It is not always easy to love people!

- **Personality conflicts** keep us from sometimes loving people
 - Some people just **frustrate** us!

You may **not** have a personality conflict with someone, but there is someone who **hurt you deeply** in the **past** and you have a difficult time **loving** them!

- You are **not sure** you *can* trust them
- You are **not sure** you want to trust them.
 - You are **not sure** that you **want** to help them b/c they have **burned** you in the past over and over again!

There may be people that you know of who has a **past** so **much different** than yours, that you **don't feel** any **connection** to them.

Bottom Line: It is not always easy to love people

- It is not always easy to love people **outside** the **church**

- It is not always easy to love people **within the church**
 - There are BELIEVERS who may **frustrate** you!

Reality: There are probably people **within the church** that you are not sure you like

- After all, the **church** is made up of all **different types** of people
 - Different **social classes**
 - Different **spiritual** levels
 - Different **backgrounds**

If the church is truly being the church, it should be a mixed bag of people!

Reality: There are probably people within the church that you are not sure you like.

Problem: It is not always easy to love fellow believers!

- Can we just **not love** fellow Christ-followers?
- Can we **pick and choose WHO we love** and still experience spiritual growth?

Is it possible to be a Christ-follower who is **growing** in his/her faith and **love only** a select group of people?

GOD

Turn to 1 Peter 1:5

CHALLENGE: 2 Peter 1:5 “For this very reason make every **effort** to supplement your faith....”

- To “**Supplement your faith**” means you must first have “**FAITH**”
 - Faith in Christ
 - Faith in God to save you from your sins

Peter is writing to **BELIEVERS**—people who have **FAITH in Christ!**

- God have **given believers**
 - “**Everything needed for life and godliness**”
 - “**very great and precious promises**”
 - The **ability** to “**Share in God’s divine nature**” so that we can “**Escape the corruption that is in the world**”

FAITH in Christ will “**Get you into heaven**” but to “**Get into the game**” a believer needs to “**make every effort to supplement your faith....**”

- A person who claims to be a believer yet who shows **no desire** to “**live out his/her faith**” is **HIGHLY** suspect.
 - If you have received God’s “**Grace and Peace**” as a result of humbling yourself before Him and

receiving His gift of eternal life, your DESIRE should be to live for the ONE who saved you!

- You should WANT to “supplement your faith”!

There are **BENEFITS** to “Supplementing your 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

IF WE want to experience these BENEFITS, WE must....

Supplement Your Faith

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

Here is a quick **review...**

2 Peter 1:5 “For this very reason make every effort to supplement your faith with **goodness...**”

SUPPLEMENT YOUR FAITH WITH GOODNESS

“goodness” = **“Moral excellence”** or **“virtue”**

- **“Make every effort to” Obey** God’s commands regarding morality!
 - Do not **commit sexual sin**
 - Do not engage in **impurity**
 - **Remove** any *triggers* that may lead you into sin
 - **Avoid** situations that may lead you into immoral actions

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

SUPPLEMENT YOUR FAITH WITH KNOWLEDGE

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

- Learn from the **consequences** of **YOUR sin-past** and **present**
- Learn from the **consequences** of sin in **other’s** lives
- Learn by **putting** into **practice** what you **KNOW**
 - Don’t just be a “**Hearer**” of God’s Word, but be a “**Doer**”!

Make every effort to *put what you KNOW into practice!*

2 Peter 1:5-6a “For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with goodness, goodness with knowledge, 6 knowledge with self-control....”

SUPPLEMENT YOUR FAITH WITH SELF-CONTROL

Self-Control is: “**power over oneself**”

- **Self-Control** happens when you say “**no**” to those
 - **Triggers** that have led you into sin in the past
 - **Situations** that have led you into sin in the past
 - **People** who have led you into sin in the past

- **Self-Control** happens when you say “walk away” from those things that...
 - Are **destructive**
 - **Hurt** your **testimony**
 - **Hinder** your relationship with God
- **Self-Control** happens when you **allow** the **Holy Spirit** to live through you!
 - When you **rely on God** for strength to say “no” and then follow through!

“Make every effort to supplement your faith” by exercising **self-control** over your **sinful nature!**

2 Peter 1:5-6 “For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with goodness, goodness with knowledge, 6 knowledge with self-control, self-control with endurance....”

SUPPLEMENT YOUR FAITH WITH ENDURANCE

What does it mean to “supplement your faith with endurance?”

- “Endurance” is to “stick with the plan”
- “Endurance” is to “stick with the plan despite delays”

- “Endurance” is to “stick with the plan despite adversity”

If WE are going to be “Fruitful and useful” in our “knowledge of Christ” then WE must “Endure” despite the *perceived delay* in His coming, despite the adversity we may face (physical, mental, spiritual and emotional)

- We “Endure” by *resting* in Him!
 - We “rest” in Christ when we TRUST CHRIST despite perceived delays or adversity

WHY Edurance? The **Apostle James** reminds us in **James 1:4** that “endurance” results in maturity

“Make every effort to supplement your faith” by enduring in spite of adversity or delays!

2 Peter 1:5-6 “For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with goodness, goodness with knowledge, 6 knowledge with self-control, self-control with endurance, endurance with **godliness**”

SUPPLEMENT YOUR FAITH WITH GODLINESS

What does it mean to be godly?

God-Centered not Self-Centered

Based on what Paul taught in **1 Timothy 6**, godly people....

- Embrace the “sound teaching of Christ”
- Embrace the “teaching that promotes godliness”
- Do not use God as a “way to material gain”
- Godly people are **not** “conceited”
- Godly people do not **thrive** on “disputes and arguments over words”
 - They are **not looking** to have **arguments** with other **believers!**
- Godly people are **not** “envious” of others
 - Why? Because they know that **things** are **temporary**
 - WHY? Because they know that **knowing God** is **more important**
- Godly people are **not** “Quarrelsome”
 - They don’t go “Looking for a fight”
- Godly people are **not** slanders
 - They don’t **lie** about people with the **intent** to **hurt** or **destroy** them
- Godly people are **not** “filled with evil suspicions”
- Godly people are **not** in “constant disagreement” with others—especially other believers!

Godly people are characterized by

- Modesty
- Harmony
- Contentment
- Putting others first
- Trust

Godliness Requires discipline

1 Timothy 4:7 “Discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness”

- **Godliness** requires that you do **spiritual work** outs!

Here some **spiritual practice drills**:

- **Prayer** (Talk to the coach)
- **Meditation** on God’s Word (listen to what the coach says!)
- **Self-examination** (i.e., “weigh in”-assess your spiritual growth!)
- **Fellowship** (Be a part of the team)
- **Service** (Put your gifts/abilities to work for God)
- **Sacrifice** (Push yourself, go the extra mile for God)
- **Submission** (Obey God and work with other Christ-followers)
- **Witness** (Get out of your comfort zone)¹

¹ Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). *The Bible exposition commentary* (1 Ti 4:7). Wheaton, Ill.: Victor Books.

We are getting to the END of our list of supplements—
or things we need to “add to” our faith!

2 Peter 1:5-6 “For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with goodness, goodness with knowledge, ⁶ knowledge with self-control, self-control with endurance, endurance with godliness, ⁷ godliness with **brotherly affection....**”

SUPPLEMENT YOUR FAITH WITH BROTHERLY AFFECTION

What does “**Brotherly affection**” refer to?

“**Brotherly affection**” = Love for Fellow Believers

- “**Brotherly**”=fellow Christ-followers
- “**Affection**”=love

Sounds easy, but the truth is Christians can be some of the **most difficult** people to love!

- It has been said that **99% of church splits** are NOT over **theology**, but over **personality**.
 - I’ve heard the stories of a church being split over the fact that someone was given a **bigger**

piece of roast beef at the pot luck than one of the leaders!

I would argue that we are living in an age, where we have more things to DIVIDE us than ever before!

For example:

- **Generational gaps**

- Due to **increased life expectancy**, the CHURCH can have up to **5 generations** worshipping at the same time

- Each generation has its **own set of expectations, traditions and opinions.**

- There has been so much change in the last 5 generations than ever before!

- Just think about how much has changed technologically, morally and politically in the last 5 generations!

- One can argue that the last 5 generations have seen more change in a short period of time than any other previous group of 5 generations.

- **Worship styles**

- Worship styles have **dramatically changed** in the **last 50 years.**

- For hundreds of years the **organ** was the **primary instrument**, then the **piano** came along in the **1800's** with more **syncopated** music
 - In the **1960's** *guitars-electric guitars* and **drums**
 - NOW **electric** lights, computers, etc. are used in the worship experience.
 - **Bottom line:** The **music** you grew up with as a **child** or the **style of worship** in which you were **converted** influences *what you think church should be like!*

WE are living in a country that has become **deeply divided** along

- **Ethnic lines**—It is argued that race (Ethnic) relations are at an all-time low
- **Politics**—Politics permeate everything now and our country is deeply divided
- **Morality**—Deep division between those who hold basic moral values—as espoused by Scripture—and those who argue that morality is fluid and cultural.
- **Financially**—Deep divide between the “have’s” and the “have nots”

- **Theologically**—Deep divide in the church between the “Progressives” and the “Conservative” churches

Now, there is an attempt to divide us by our vaccine status: **vaccinated vs unvaccinated**.

Satan loves to play our **differences** against us!

- It is easy to allow our **differences to divide** us!

Peter doesn't elaborate on “**Brotherly affection**” but the **Apostle John** talks extensively about **Brotherly Love** in his first letter;

- Go **right** a couple of pages to the little letter of **1 John**

If there was ever a time to “**Supplement our faith with brotherly affection**” it is now!

Why “**Supplement our faith with Brotherly Affection**”?

Testimony of Salvation

1 John 3:14 “*We know that we have passed from death to life (WHY?) because we love our brothers. The one who does not love remains in death.*”

- If you don't have "love for fellow Christ followers" then, according to John, you haven't **experienced the love of Christ!**
 - You are NOT a Christ-follower!

John echoes Jesus' words from the **Sermon on the Mount** in **v. 15**: "Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life residing in him."

1 John 4:8 "The one who does not love does not know God, because God is love."

- If you **can't love** someone because they ...
 - Have a different amount of **pigmentation** in their skin than you
 - Are a member of a **different political party** than you are
 - Are **richer** or **poorer** than you are
- THEN, "you don't know God" – John's words!

HOW can you have a TESTIMONY for Christ if you can't LOVE people with a "Brotherly affection" who are DIFFERENT than you?

Why "Supplement our faith with Brotherly Affection"?
Clarity Regarding Your Testimony of Salvation

1 John 2:9-11 “The one who **says** he is in the light but *hates his brother* (notice the relationship) is in the darkness until now. The one who loves *his brother* (notice the contrast) remains in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him. But the one who hates his brother (1) is in the darkness, (2) walks in the darkness, and (3) doesn’t know where he’s going, (WHY?) because the darkness has blinded his eyes.”

- John: The person who “**says** he is in the light but *hates his brother* (notice the relationship) is in the darkness until now.”
 - No evidence of salvation
 - How can you claim to have experienced God’s love for you and then NOT show love to others?
- **NO CLARITY** without **Supplementing Your Faith With Brotherly Affection!**
 - “is in darkness” = **no clarity**
 - “cause for stumbling” = **no clarity**
 - “doesn’t know where he’s going” = **no clarity!**

Doesn’t that sound exactly alike what Peter says in **2 Peter 1:9** “The person who lacks these things is blind and shortsighted and has forgotten the cleansing from his past sins.”

- Peter is challenging BELIEVERS, but when a **believer acts** like an **unbeliever** and does not **“Supplement his faith with brother affection”** his/her **testimony** is lost.
 - How can you claim to have experienced God’s love for you and then NOT show love to others?
 - The ONLY way for that to be true for a believer is when the believer **“has forgotten the cleansing from his past sins “**

The demonstration of **“Brotherly affection”** is an indicator of salvation!

Why **“Supplement our faith with Brotherly Affection”**?
Testimony of Joy

1 John 4:18–19 **“There is no fear in love; instead, perfect love drives out fear, because fear involves punishment. So the one who fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because He first loved us.”**

- **Fear** does not result in **“Joy!”**
 - No **“Joy”**, **NO PEACE**
 - **No Peace** without **Supplementing Your Faith With Brotherly Affection!**
 - **Fear = no peace**
 - **Punishment=no peace**

Why “Supplement our faith with Brotherly Affection”?

Stability of Testimony

1 John 4:16 “And we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and the one who remains in love remains in God, and God remains in him.”

- **STABILITY**= “the one who remains in love remains in God”
- **STABILITY**= “God remains in him.”

If you **DON'T** **Supplementing Your Faith with Brotherly Affection**”, you will....

- **Hate** who your **favorite politicians tell you** to hate
- **Hate** who the **media program** you to hate
 - How do the **media program** people?
 - By running only the stories that push the **narrative** forward that has been determined should be pushed forward.
 - Result: WE will hate whomever those you “**TRUST**” tell you to hate!

Supplementing Your Faith with Brotherly Affection results in **stability!**

HOW do you we “Supplement our faith with Brotherly affection”?

- Is it simply a matter of saying “I love you”?
- Is it simply a matter of being “nice” to each other-being civil?

How do you we show “Brotherly affection”?

1 John 3:17-18 “If anyone has this world’s goods (i.e., you have the resources) and sees his brother in need (knows about the problem) but shuts off his compassion from him—how can God’s love reside in him? Little children, we must not love in word or speech, **but** in deed and truth.”

How do you we show “Supplement our faith with Brotherly affection”?

Help Those in Need through Actions

How do you we show “Brotherly affection”?

- **Through actions**
 - “...we must not love in word or speech, **but** in deed and truth.”
 - We show **love to fellow believers** by our *actions, works, deeds, and by what we do!*

John's point is "You cannot have the love of God in you if you can shut off your compassion from fellow believers in need!"

- IF you have the **ability** to help a fellow believer, but refuse to do so, you are not going to enjoy these benefits!
 - Refusal to love fellow believers is an indication of an:
 - **Unbelieving** heart at **worst**
 - **Selfish heart** at **best**

WE cannot experience a multiplication of God's "grace and peace" (v. 2) if we refuse to show the Love of God in our lives!

- We can't experience God's grace if we refuse to show God's grace!

FEAR: I Can't Help Everyone!

- **Solution:** "Do for one what you wish you could do for all"

How do you we show "Supplement our faith with Brotherly affection"?

Help Those in Need through Speaking Truth

1 John 3:17-18 “If anyone has this world’s goods (i.e., you have the resources) and sees his brother in need (knows about the problem) but shuts off his compassion from him—how can God’s love reside in him? Little children, we must not love in word or speech, *but* in deed and truth.”

To love “in word or speech” is the **opposite** of to love “in truth.”

- To “love “in word or speech” = to love **insincerely**.

To love “in truth” means to love a person **genuinely**, from the heart and not just from the tongue.

- To love “in truth” means to love a person enough to **tell** him/her the **truth**

WE

PQ: Are You Supplementing Your Faith?