

How To Avoid Being Useless For Christ  
2 Peter 1:3-11

ETS: Peter challenged believers to supplement their faith

ESS: To be useful, faith is not enough!

OSS: I want people to see that faith in Christ is not enough to make one useful to Christ

PQ: Are you supplementing your faith?

UW: Useful

**ME**

How may have owned...

- A walking sleeping bag?
- A butterstick
- A Shoe umbrella
- Avocado shaver
- A fish training kit (Includes a 45 minute detailed instructional DVD featuring world famous fish trainer Dr Dean Pomerleau. Includes a 45 minute detailed instructional DVD featuring world famous fish trainer Dr Dean Pomerleau.)
- A fish walker
- USB Pet Rock
- Privacy Hat
- Car Desk
- DVD rewinder

Does anyone here own any of these inventions? NO

- WHY NOT? Because they are USELESS!
  - Have no practical use

Would you spend money to buy these inventions? NO!

- The ONLY reason you might buy one of these things is as a 'gag' gift

**WE**

Have you ever had someone call you "useless"?

- If so, you can probably remember WHO called you "Useless?"
  - WHY? Because you remember HOW you FELT when they called you that!
    - You probably felt hurt, ashamed, disappointed in yourself.

IF you have been called "useless", did cause you to want to try harder or to want to give up?

- If you have been called "useless" more than once by the same person, you probably starting shutting down around that person; you probably stopped even trying!
  - WHY? Because you were told you are "useless" so why try!

NO ONE wants to be called “**useless**”!

We all want to feel like we are contributing something!

- You want to feel that you are contributing to your **marriage, job, church, family**, etc.

The level of PAIN caused by being called “Useless” depends on WHO is calling you “useless”!

- If you have no respect for the person and they call you “useless” then you don’t care!
- If you have respect for the person and they call you “useless” you care!

If you really want to please a person and then the person calls you “useless” and your efforts to please him/her “useless” then you really HURT!

- If one **spouse** calls another **spouse** “useless” that is really hurtful
- If a **person** you **respect** calls you useless, that really hurts
- If you are trying to impress your **boss** and he/she calls you “**useless**” that hurts

WHO is the ONE you really want to please?

For the believer, the PERSON is CHRIST!

- WHY? He **died** for you
- WHY? HE **paid** the **penalty** for your sin
- WHY? He **saved** you from the penalty for your sin
- WHY? He **gave** His **ALL** for you and you want to PLEASE Him.

A believer’s desire should be to be USEFUL for God!

- You should desire to be USEFUL for Him in this world
  - You should want your life to COUNT for something

PROBLEM: You may feel that you are “useless” to God!

- You may feel that you are one big DISSAPOINTMENT to God!
  - Because another human has called you “Useless”, you may have concluded that God sees you as “useless”

HOW do you avoid being “useless” for God?

- WHAT does it take to be useful to God?

I think WE all want to hear “**Well done, good and faithful servant**” when we stand before the Lord!

- WHAT does it take to be a “**good and faithful servant**”?

**GOD**

Turn to **2 Peter 1**

## Last week:

- **Know WHO you are**
  - A “Servant” of Christ =
  - An “apostle” (small ‘a’) = sent out
- **Know WHAT you have**
  - A “Faith equal” to the apostles!
  - Grace and Peace AND the possibility that they can be multiplied to you!
  - Everything required for life and godliness
  - Very great and precious promises
  - Ability to “Share in the divine nature of God” thus escaping the “corruption that is in the world”

These are FOUNDATIONAL to your IDENTITY

- You must have a solid foundation as you face life!
  - Peter is going to talk a lot about “*facing the end*” later
    - You need to KNOW and ACT on these foundational truths as you are “*facing the end.*”

*These realities are also FOUNDATIONAL to being USEFUL!*

## 2 Peter 1:5 “For this very reason

- What is the reason?
  - REASON: “His divine power has given us everything required for life and godliness” (2 Peter 1:3)
    - HOW do we get “everything required for life and godliness”
      - “through the knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness”

## 2 Peter 1:5 “For this very reason...

- (2 Peter 1:4) REASON: “He has given us very great and precious promises...”
- WHY: so that through them (the “great and precious promises”) you may ) share in the divine nature, escaping the corruption that is in the world because of evil desire.

## 2 Peter 1:5 “For this very reason

- REASON: “His divine power has given us everything required for life and godliness”
- REASON: “He has given us very great and precious promises...”

## WHO has done these things for you?

- V. 3 “He has given us....”
- V. 4. “He have given us”

“For this very reason” that God has GIVEN you these things....

- make every effort to supplement your faith with goodness,

## YOUR FAITH NEEDS TO BE SUPPLEMENTED

God has GIVEN you these things, so now WE need to “Make every effort...”

- WE need to CHOOSE to ACT
  - These things are NOT going to happen automatically!
    - God gave you the tools, but WE have to USE them!

make every effort to *supplement* your faith with goodness,

Does anyone here take a multi-Vitamin?

Does anyone here take Fish oil, Iron or zinc?

What are these called? Supplements

WHY do we take supplements?

- To **ADD** to what we already have
  - **Definition:** “Dietary supplements are substances you might use to add nutrients to your diet or to lower your risk of health problems such as osteoporosis or arthritis.”
- To **STRENGTHEN** what you already possess
- To **KEEP** you from being DEFICIENT in a NECESSARY nutrient

To be a BELIEVER, a Follower of Jesus Christ, WHAT must you have? FAITH!

- **Hebrews 11:1** “Now faith is the reality of what is hoped for, the proof of what is not seen.”
  - **FAITH:** Reality that Christ is the SON of God
    - **PROOF of that Reality:** His Resurrection

To be a BELIEVER, a Follower of Jesus Christ, YOU have to claim: “I believe Christ is the Son of God”

To be a BELIEVER, a Follower of Jesus Christ, YOU have to **RECIEVE:** Christ as your Lord and Savior

- To “**RECIEVE: Christ as your Lord and Savior**” you have to **HUMBLE** yourself before God
  - Humble yourself, but **ADMITTING** your **NEED** for **Deliverance** from the **PENALTY** of your **REBELLION** against God!

A Follower of Jesus Christ is a person who has reached out in FAITH and called upon God to SAVE him/her by confessing his/her sins and asking Christ to be his/her Lord and Savior.

Follower of Jesus Christ is a person of FAITH!

Peter is writing “To those who have received a faith equal to ours” (1 Peter 1:1)

- Peter is writing to people of FAITH!

The FOUNDATION is FAITH!

Last week:

- **Know WHO you are...**
  - ADD to the List: **A PERSON of FAITH in CHRIST**

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

WHY do you need to *Supplement your faith*?

- Isn't FAITH in Christ enough?

It depends on whether you want to be **USEFUL** or **USELESS!**

- It depends on whether you want to hear Christ say “*Well done, good and faithful servant*” or not!

IF it **DOESN'T MATTER** to you, then you really need to **check your FAITH!**

- **IF** you really BELIEVE
  - **Christ suffered** for your sins in YOUR place
  - Christ **died** so that you can have eternal life
  - Your faith in **Christ has saved you** from eternal damnation
- **THEN**
  - Why would you NOT want to “*Supplement your faith*”?
  - WHY would you be content to be “Useless”?

WHERE are you getting this whole idea of being “Useful” or “Useless for Christ”?

**2 Peter 1:5-8** “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, and brotherly affection with love.” (WHY?) 8 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.*”

### **Supplementing Your Faith Prevents Uselessness**

WHY is it so important that we are NOT “*useless or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ*”?

WHAT has Peter said about the “*knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ*”?

- **2 Peter 1:2** “May grace and peace be multiplied to you through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.”
- **V. 2** that it is through the “*through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord*” that “*Grace and Peace*” are “multiplied” to you!
  - IF you are lacking “**Peace**”

- IF you are lacking the enjoyment of God's **grace**....
  - THEN, you are NOT **"Supplementing your faith"**
    - YOU are DEFICIENT in some area!

*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."*

WHAT has Peter said about the **"knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ"**?

- **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."
- **V. 3** it is through the "knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness" that we have **"everything required for life and godliness"**
  - IF you are struggling with **"life"**
  - IF you are struggling with **"godliness"** ....
    - THEN, you are NOT **"Supplementing your faith"**
      - YOU are DEFICIENT in some area!

Bottom Line: If we are **"useless or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ"** (V.8)

- THEN, we are going to be **lacking** in **"Peace"**,
  - Not **enjoying** God's **"Grace"**,
  - Struggling with **"Life"** and
  - Struggling to be **"godly"** in a world full of corruption!

HOW do we AVOID becoming **"useless or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ"**?

- Attending hours of Bible classes?
- Going to seminary?
- Memorizing Scripture?

All these are helpful, but remember....

- When Peter wrote this letter there were **NO SEMINARIES**
- **NO LIFEWAY** for Sunday School material or discipleship training books
- People **did not have Bibles** to carry around
- The **New Testament** was still being **written!**

HOW did the **church survive** without these things?

HOW were **people** able to have an **impact** on their culture?

How were people able to PLEASE God without reading their Bible's through every year?

**SHOCKER:** Those things (while helpful) are **NOT** what makes you **"Useful or fruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ"**!

- You can have **Scripture memorized** and still be **"useless and unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."**!

- You can be a **Sunday teacher, Pastor, Deacon**, and still be “*useless and unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.*”!
- You can have **graduated from seminary** and still be “*useless and unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.*”!

**SHOCKER:** You DON'T NEED ANY of those things to be “*Useful or fruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ!*”

WHAT do you need to do to be “*Useful or fruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ?*”?

**Peter** says you need to “*Supplement*” or “*Add to*” what you already have: Your **FAITH!**

- FAITH in Christ is the starting point, but NOT the end point!
  - FAITH in Christ results in eternal life, but NOT life “*Abundantly*” on this earth!

An “*Abundant*” life is a life where “*Grace and peace are multiplied to you!*”

An “*Abundant*” life is a life where you are “*Escaping the corruption that is in the world*”

An “*Abundant*” life is a life where you living in “*godliness*” resulting in communion with Christ!

An “*Abundant*” life is a life where you are growing in the “*Knowledge of Christ who saved you!*”

To enjoy life “*Abundantly*” (i.e., to it's fullest) you need to “*Supplement your faith*”

WHAT do you “*supplement your faith*” with?

**2 Peter 1:5-8** “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, and brotherly affection with love.” (WHY?) 8 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.*”

If you don't “*supplement your faith*” with these things you will not only be “*useless or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.*” By there are other consequences!

**1 Peter 1:9** “The person who lacks these things is blind and shortsighted and has forgotten the cleansing from his past sins.”

Remember we are talking about believers!

How can a believer be “*Blind*”?

- “*Blind*” to spiritual warfare!
  - Without these **supplementations to your faith**, your spiritual eyesight is dim!
    - Your vision is more horizontal than vertical
      - You don't see the spiritual war that is going on around you

How can a believer be “*shortsighted*”?

- Without these **supplementations to your faith**, you are only focused on the “here and now”
  - You are not willing to “Step out in faith” and follow God

How can a believer be “forget the cleansing from his past sins.”

- Because he/she is NOT supplementing his/her faith!

Do you wonder why many professed believers no longer gather with other believers?

Do you wonder why many professed believers no longer walk with the Lord?

Do you wonder why many professed believers don't seem to be any different than professed non-believers?

**Possibility #1:** They say they are believers but are NOT

**Possibility #2:** They are not **“Supplementing their faith!”**

- Their faith has grown cold, stale and dead!

### **Supplementing Your Faith Prevents Uselessness**

Why do you take Supplements?

- Because you believe there is a **deficiency** in your nutrition!
- Because you want to **boost** your nutrition

Why should a believer **“Supplement his/her faith”** with these things?

**2 Peter 1: 10-11** “Therefore, brothers and sisters, make every effort to confirm your calling and election, (WHY?) because if you do these things you will never stumble. (WHY?) 11 For in this way, entry into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be richly provided for you.”

You take supplements to build up immunity-to make you stronger!

You **“supplement your faith”** to make you stronger!

- Promise: **“you will never stumble!”**

If you have **“stumbled”** in your walk with Christ

If you are **“Stumbling”** in your walk with Christ

- Then you are not **“Supplementing your faith”** with one or some of these things!

Supplementation of your faith is how you **“confirm your calling and election”**

- IF you claim to be a follower of Jesus Christ, but are **struggling** with **ASSURANCE** of salvation it is because
  - 1. You cannot point to a **moment of conversion** OR...
  - 2. You are not **“Supplementing your faith!”**

- Because you are not **“Supplementing your faith”** there is a deficiency leading to doubt of your salvation!

Supplementation of your faith is how you **“confirm your calling and election”**

- By **“confirming your calling and election”** **“entry into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be richly provided for you.”**
  - Supplementation of your faith is how you **“enjoy and experience”** the **“kingdom of God”**

## YOU

Do you want to avoid being “Useless” to God?

- Supplement your faith!

Do you want to avoid being “Fruitless” to God?

- Supplement your faith!

Do you feel “useless and fruitless” to God?

- Supplement your faith!

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!

**PQ: Are you “Supplementing Your Faith?”**

- If not, why not?

**PQ: Are you “Supplementing Your Faith?”**

- If you are struggling with
  - Assurance of Salvation
  - Feeling “useless” and “Unfruitful”
  - Sin and feeling overwhelmed by it
    - THEN, it is a good indication that you are NOT “Supplementing your Faith!”

## WE

Next Week: We will look at the ingredients in the Supplementation formula Peter give us!