

"Two More 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

Desire: To be Useful

- "Well done, good and faithful servant"

Desire: To make an impact

- To be "Pleasing to God"

WE

Step 1: Know God

Step 2: Be Known **BY** God (Salvation)

Step 3: Be a part of God's Mission (Useful, Fruitful...make an impact)

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!
 - *Accomplished Steps 1 & 2*

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

- **Desire: Step 3**

WHAT are the BENEFITS of "Supplementing our Faith"?

- 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."

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?**

- **WITHOUT** these you will **NOT** be Useful or Fruitful

IF so,

Supplement Your Faith

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

- **2 Peter 1:8** "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..."
 - What are the "**QUALITIES**" we need to "**possess in increasing measure**"?

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

Quality #1

SUPPLEMENT YOUR FAITH WITH GOODNESS

"**goodness**" is used specifically to refer to "**Moral excellence**"

- **Some translations** use the word "**virtue**" or "**Moral excellence**"-which is probably a better translation

We have **free will**

- We can choose **NOT** to "**Supplement our faith**" with **Virtue!**
 - We can live **immoral** lives!

REALITY: If we DON'T "**supplement our faith**" with **virtue** we are going to lose...

- **Productivity:** We won't be **producing** a **testimony** for Christ
- **Clarity:** Our **thinking** will be **clouded** because we are focused on our next pleasurable encounter

- **Humility:** We will become **hardened** in our sin and not humble before God
- **Stability:** We will be **under** the **sway** of sin
- **Joy:** Our **relationship** with Christ will be **hampered**, clouded and we **won't** have **peace**

IF there have been times in your life—or if that is happening now—you know this to be true!

- A true Christ-follower who is NOT **“Supplementing his/her faith with virtue”** is
 - **NOT** at **peace** with God
 - **NOT** being **productive** in his/her walk with God
 - **NOT** thinking **clearly**
 - **NOT strong** in his/her **stand** against sin
 - **NOT humble** in **spirit**, but **rather** is **rebellious**

IF you find these things to be true in your life, you need to **“Supplement your faith”** with virtue!

Quality #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.”**

I'm all for book **knowledge**, 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!

Have you heard the phrase: **“Live and Learn”?**

We **“Supplement our faith”** by learning!

- Learning from the **painful effects** of sin in our own lives
- Learning about the **Triggers** that can easily cause us to stumble
- Learning to **avoid** those Triggers
- Learning about our **own sinful desires**, our **weaknesses** and our **strengths**
- Learning by **observing others** in real life
- Learning by **observing** others in **Scripture**

Learning is important but it must be coupled with practicality!

“Supplementing your faith” with practical knowledge provides...

- **Productive**—you are **NOT derailed** by **sin** because **you've learned** about how to **avoid** the **triggers**, you've learned about your weaknesses

- **Clarity:** You have **clarity** in your life about **the painful effects of sin**, the **deceitfulness** of your own **heart** and the **schemes** of the **LIAR,-Satan!**
- **Stability:** You are not drawn into sin; you stand firm against sin
- **Humility:** You are aware of your own **propensity** to sin resulting in humility
- **Joy:** You are **NOT allowing** sin to rule in your life because you have learned what to avoid therefore, you have JOY in your life because your relationship to Christ is not clouded by sin.

Supplement Your Faith

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...”

QUALITY #3

SUPPLEMENT YOUR FAITH WITH SELF-CONTROL

What is Self-Control?

- **Self**=it involves only YOU!
 - **NOT** controlling **others**: *this is control of yourself*
 - **No one to blame except yourself!**
- **Control**=power

Self-Control is: “power over oneself”

Do you ever feel like Self Control is impossible?

- You have this desire to do what is right, yet the desire to do wrong seem to win the day!
 - You know you **don't** have the **money**, but you use the credit card anyway
 - You know you **shouldn't look**, but you look anyway
 - You know you **shouldn't** have the “**stinkin thinking**” by you do it anyway
 - You know you **shouldn't tell the lie**, but you lie anyway!
 - You are trying to lose weight and you know you **shouldn't** have the pie slice, but you give in and get it anyway!

Do you ever feel like Self-Control is impossible?

Is self-control impossible? No!

- Obviously, people exercise self-control
 - Some **exercise** everyday!
 - They are like everyone else, they have the temptations *not* to exercise, but they do it!
 - Some people exercise self-control in their **moral** choices
 - They have the **same temptations** as everyone else, yet they still say “**no**” to immorality.

HOW do you “**Supplement your faith**” with **self-control**?

1. **KNOW** what you have!

In just this letter, Peter has already told us in **2 Peter 1:3** “His divine power has given us **everything required for life and godliness...**”

- God has given you **everything** you need for “**godliness**”
 - Through Christ, you have the “**POWER**” to say “**no**” to sin
 - In **v. 4** Peter says that **you** can “**share in the divine nature, escaping the corruption that is in the world.**”

You have a “**Faith equal to the apostles**” (**v. 2**)

How often are you supposed to take your **nutritional supplement**? **Everyday!**

- WHY do you take a **nutritional supplement** every day?
 - Because you **depleted** what you had the day before.

Reality: The **lack of self-control** often happens in those **quick, snap, impromptu** decisions!

- An unexpected “**pop up**” comes up on your screen and no one is around!
- Your **mom’s pain killers** are sitting in the open and you would like to escape for a little while!
- The **person** you **despise** walks into the **room** and you are going to **seize** the opportunity to tell him/her off!

The **lack of self-control** often happens in those **quick, snap, impromptu** decisions!

Therefore, you need to “**Supplement your faith**” with reminding yourself of **WHAT** you have every day!

- YOU have “**everything you need for life and godliness**”
- You have a “**faith equal to the apostles**”
- You have “**very great and precious promises**”
- You have a “**share in God’s divine nature**” enabling you to “**escape the corruption that is in the world!**”

2. **KNOW WHO** you ARE!

Sin is NOT your master!

- **Romans 6:6–7 (HCSB)** — “For we **know** that our old self was crucified with Him in order that **sin’s dominion over the body may be abolished, so that we may no longer be enslaved to sin, since a person who has died is freed from sin’s claims.**”
 - Your “**old self**” is **DEAD**
 - “**sin’s dominion over the body**” IS “**Abolished**”
 - You are “**no longer enslaved to sin**”

- You are “Freed from sin’s claims!”

Self-control begins in the **MIND!**

- It is empowered by knowing **WHAT** you have
- IT is empowered by knowing **WHO** you are

Self-control is like a **muscle**—the more you use it the **stronger** you become!

“Supplementing your faith” with “Goodness (virtue)”, and practical “Knowledge” requires “Self-Control” and the more you **supplement your faith** with these things, the **STRONGER** you grow in **self-control!**

- **Galatians 5:16 (HCSB)** — “I say then, walk by the Spirit and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.”

Each day the **Holy Spirit** speaks to us about what we know is right and wrong

- When you **want to buy** something you don’t need, and the **Holy Spirit convicts** you, and you respond by **not buying** it—you are “walking by the Spirit”.
- When you **want to look**, but you respond to the **Holy Spirit’s conviction**, and **avert your eyes and refocus** on something else, you are “walking by the Spirit”.
- When you want to seethe with anger, but you respond to the **Holy Spirit’s conviction**, and **choose to refocus and praise** the Lord, you are “walking by the Spirit”.

When we choose to “walk by the Spirit we will not carry out the desire of the flesh.”

- **Galatians 5:22–23 (HCSB)** “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, gentleness, **self-control**. Against such things there is no law.”

Did you catch the last one? “Self-control”

- Self-control is a **result** of allowing the **Holy Spirit** to control us!

Do you want to supplement your faith with self-control?

- Allow the **Holy Spirit** to control you
 - How? **Responding** to that “still small voice” that is **warning** you “don’t do this.”
 - How? **Remind** yourself that you **do not** have to give into the temptation!
 - **Tip: Remind** yourself of the **pain** that giving into that temptation will cause you and your family
 - **Tip: Refocus** your **attention** on something else. Walk away!

Supplement Your 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 with endurance....”

Quality #4

SUPPLEMENT YOUR FAITH WITH ENDURANCE

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

The original word here is *hypomene*

- There are **three common ways** this word is **translated**
 - Although they all refer to the same action of “**enduring**” they all have a *slightly different twist*.

For example, some of you may have a Bible that uses the word **Perseverance** (NASB, NIV)

- **Perseverance** means you have to **stick with the plan!**

When I was growing up we would visit my aunt and uncle in **Pendleton, Indiana**.

- Pendleton is a small, quaint town, with a very nice park built around a small waterfall.
- Pendleton also has a city pool-a little bigger than ours
 - Back in the day, before out-of-control lawsuits, they had diving boards
 - They had a high diving board!

I remember watching many kids get up on that thing only to “**chicken out**” and beg to come back down!

- 10 feet doesn’t look too high until you get up there!
 - These kids didn’t “**stick with the plan**”

Why do you think they **didn’t** “**stick with the plan**”?

- They allowed their **fear** to keep them from jumping!
 - They couldn’t follow through!

Why did they climb the ladder in the first place?

- **Peer pressure**-all their friends are jumping off the high dive
- **To impress** people-after all there are bragging rights at stake!

Not everyone backed out!

- Some kids-young kids-climbed up on the high dive and jumped!
 - Do you think they had some fear? Yes, but they did it anyway!

Why did some kids jump?

- They were **determined** to **stick with the plan!**
 - I remember when I first went up on that board.
 - I was scared to death-but I was determined to **stick with the plan!**

Because I “**stuck to the plan**” I experienced jumping off the high dive

- Because I “**stuck to the plan**” I knew I could jump off the high dive
- Because I “**stuck to the plan**” I accomplished something that some kids did not!

Like the kids who **backed off the ladder on the high dive** because of **fear**, some people don’t “**stick to the plan**” because they get **afraid**

- Afraid of what others will say

“Supplementing Your Faith” involves *“sticking to the plan”*!

- You are **not** going to **experience** an **abundance** of God’s **“grace and peace”** if you keep **backing down** off the ladder!

“Supplementing Your Faith” is a **lifetime commitment** made up of **day-to-day decisions** to **stick to the plan**!

Some people don’t “stick to the plan” because they get anxious!

Another way *“hypomene”* is translated is *“Patience”*

For example, some of you may have a Bible that uses the word **“Patience”** (NLT, KJV)

- One definition of patience is *“an ability or willingness to suppress restlessness or annoyance when confronted with delay”*

Patience: Stick with the plan despite delays

Let me be honest with you: life is **filled** with **delays**!

- God is **not** a **cosmic** vending machine!
 - God sees the **big** picture
 - God **knows** what is **best** for us
 - God **wants** what is **best** for us!

Parents, do you give your child everything he/she wants? You shouldn’t!

- Why? Because children don’t always want what is best for them!

You’re 12-year-old son may want to drive **your** car, but he is not mature enough to be driving your car out on the road!

- He may think he can drive!
- He may dream of driving
- He may know about the general rules of the road
 - But you know he is not ready!

He doesn’t have the **maturity** to have that much **power** at his disposal!

- He **hasn’t learned self-control** (he wants to pass anybody and anytime on the two-lane roads)

Are you being a **bad parent** for not giving him the **keys**?

- He may think so, but you see the **big picture** and he doesn’t!

God sees the BIG picture and I don’t

- I want God to give me the keys, and there are times when God says *“You’re not ready.”*

- “You’re **not ready** for the **responsibility** that comes with that job”
- “You’re **not ready** for the **spiritual warfare** you are going to encounter”

“*Supplementing Your Faith*” requires patience!

- **Patience** with yourself
- **Patience** with God!

Life is filled with **highs** and **lows**!

- When you are on a “**high**” life is **great** and **God is good**
- When you are on a “**low**” life **stinks** and where is God?

The **spiritual life** is like the **stock market**

- There are **highs** and **lows**

Problem: Too many Christ followers get **impatient** and **quit** in the lows!

- They **quit pursuing** God b/c He has given them what they wanted
- They **give up** on God b/c He has been silent
 - Then they wonder why there is an absence of “**grace and peace**” in their lives!

A person who “**endures**” has a **spiritual life** that **looks** like the **stock market**!

- The difference is that they **didn’t give up** when they were in the valleys
- The difference is he/she **endured** because they were **patient**!
 - **Patient** with **God**
 - **Patient** with **themselves**!

So “*Supplementing Your Faith*” involves:

- **Perseverance:** You have to “**stick to the plan**”
- **Patience:** You are going to experience “**highs and lows**”

It also involves the **third way** this word is translated: **Endurance** (CSB)

In the original language, this word is made up of two parts

- Hypo=under
- Meno=abiding
 - The word literally means “**to abide up under**”

Here’s the point: “*Supplementing Your Faith*” involves...

- “**sticking to the plan,**
- **being patient** as you stick to the plan,

Endurance: Stick to the plan despite adversity.

Reality: The more you live for Christ, the **more** you are going to **face spiritual attacks**!

- If you stay stuck on the first step, Satan is not going to bother you much
 - After all, if you are **not** supplementing your faith with **Goodness, Knowledge, or self-control**, why would Satan bother you?
 - You are **not** a **threat!**
 - In fact, you are an asset.

When we **don't supplement our faith** with **Goodness, Knowledge, or self-control** we are just like those who **do not believe!**

- We make **great hypocrites** when we DON'T *"Supplement Our Faith"*
 - We give people reasons **not** to believe!

If you **supplement your faith** with **Goodness, Knowledge and self-control**, you are going to be attacked!

- **The attack may come in the form of circumstances, people, temptations, finances, etc.**
 - Satan's goal is to knock you off this step and get you to slide back down the ladder.

SUPPLEMENT YOUR FAITH WITH ENDURANCE

Reality: God is going to allow Satan to test your faith!

- God is going to allow difficult times to come into our lives
 - Why? Because as James wrote in **James 1:3-4 (HCSB)** *"knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. 4 But endurance must do its complete work, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking nothing."*

We endure things because we hope that the end result will make it worthwhile!

- **Endure a boring preacher** hoping to get something from the **message**
- **Endure a boring lecture** so you can get the notes so you can pass the class
- **Endure the medical tests** hoping to find out what is wrong
- **Endure the wait** on the **doctor** because you believe he might have the answer

We endure things because we hope that the end result will make it worthwhile!

We applaud people who endure!

- **Video of injured Olympic Runner who refuses to quit**

YOU

We will keep unpacking 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?