

"The Godliness 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

How many have been watching the Olympics?

What separates an Olympic athlete from others?

- An **innate ability**
 - There is a certain “**naturalness**” to what they do
- **Effort**
 - Even though they may have a Natural ability to do what they do, they still have train!
 - **Train** for long hours
 - **Power** through adversity
 - Be **willing** to **fail**—in front of everyone

Every **Olympian** is a winner!

- If you were to **meet** an Olympian, you'd have a certain sense of **respect**!
 - **Few people** make it to the Olympics!
 - **Olympians** are in a unique class of people

WE

Faith in Christ gets you **entrance** into the **spiritual Olympic** games

- Because of your faith in Christ, you have a **seat** in the **stadium** (Heaven)
 - As Paul wrote: **“You are seated with Christ in the heavenlies”**

Faith in Christ gets you the **training opportunities** become a spiritual Olympian!

- Because of your faith in Christ, you have the **Holy Spirit**
- Because of your **faith in Christ**, YOU have been given **“everything required for life and godliness...”** (2 Peter 1:3)
- Because of your **faith in Christ**, YOU are able to **“share in the divine nature.”** (2 Peter 1:4)

You have the **ability** to become a **spiritual Olympian**!

- You have the opportunity to make an **impact** on those you meet!
- You have the **opportunity** to **inspire** and **encourage** people
- You have the **opportunity** to make a **difference**

PROBLEM:

- Although you have gained “*entrance into the spiritual Olympic stadium*”
- Although you have the **tools** you need to be a spiritual Olympian
 - You still have to put in the “**Effort**”

You don’t become an Olympian without “**effort**”!

GOD

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

- Putting in the “**effort to supplement your faith**”
REQUIRES **desire**!
 - Desire happens WHEN you see the **BENEFITS**

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

These are the qualities of a SPIRITUAL OLYMPIAN:

- **Productive:**
 - Produce fruit in keeping with repentance
 - The *fruit of the Holy Spirit* (Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, etc) is evident in his/her life
- **Clarity**
 - They see what is **right** and **wrong**
 - They see the **spiritual warfare** that is happening around them
- **Humility**
 - They live in humility
 - They respond in humility
- **Stability**
 - They stay firm in their beliefs
 - They are not swayed by the latest cultural definitions of morality or fads
- **Joy**
 - There is peace in their hearts
 - They rejoice in spite of the circumstance

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

Supplement Your Faith

Go back to **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....”

- These **qualities** must be... “Possessed” or “Owned” or “held” by YOU!
 - **2 Peter 1:3** “His divine power has given us everything required for life and godliness...”
 - So YOU “Possess” these qualities BUT....
- These **qualities** must be... “in increasing measure” (v. 8)
 - They are NOT **static**!
 - They must be growing and increasing in strength in order to keep you from “being useless or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ”

That phrase “they will keep you from being useless or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ” has bothered me!

- WHAT does it mean to be useless or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ?
 - **Audience: Believers**
 - Believers have “knowledge of Jesus Christ”

- **Knowledge of His death, burial and resurrection**
- **Knowledge of experiencing new life in Him as a result of repentance and trust in him.**
- BUT, if that “**knowledge of Jesus Christ**” STOPS at that point, the believer is going to be “**useless or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ**”
 - HOW? Because he/she is not taking **ahold** of what these qualities
 - They are NOT allowing Christ to live through them
 - They are NOT walking in the Holy Spirit

SYMPTOMS of this being the case is the opposite being on display in the believer’s life!

- Lack of “**Goodness**” or moral excellence
- Lack of “**Knowledge**” – they don’t learn from their sin or the sinful actions of others
- Lack of **self-control**—they follow the desires of their sinful nature
- Lack of **endurance**—they easily give up following the Lord when the “Cares of this life” overtake them.

RESULTS:

- No **Productivity** for Christ

- *No testimony* or witness for Christ
- *No impact* on others for Christ
- **No Clarity**
 - They are focused *not* on the *eternal* but the here-and-now
- **No Humility**
 - They tend to be self-righteous or arrogant
 - Not willing to share their burdens with others in the body of Christ
- **No Stability**
 - Easily tossed by every “wind of teaching”
- **No Joy**
 - In their heart they know there is a barrier between them and their loving heavenly Father, but they ignore it
 - Often exhibited with **fear** in their attitude about life and the future

They have a *saving* “**Knowledge of Jesus Christ**” but at the same time they are “**Useless and unfruitful in their knowledge of Jesus Christ.**”

IF you DON'T want these qualities to characterize you,
then....

Supplement Your Faith

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

- What are the “QUALITIES” we need to “possess in increasing measure”?

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!
- **Self-control is possible** when you
 - **KNOW WHAT** you **Have!** (MIND/HEART)
 - 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!”**
 - **KNOW WHO** you are (MIND/HEART)
 - **Saint**
 - **Redeemed** from power of sin
 - **Reconciled** to God
 - **Adopted** into God’s family
 - A **citizen** of heaven
 - More than a **conqueror** through Christ

“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 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 must do its complete work, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking nothing.”

- In other words, “Endurance” will result in being “Useful and fruitful in the knowledge of Jesus Christ.”

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

That’s a REVIEW of the “qualities” that we need to “make every effort” to use to “supplement our faith”

Let’s look at another ingredient we need to “supplement 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**”

SUPPLEMENT YOUR FAITH WITH GODLINESS

I grew up more or less on a **college campus**-a strict Christian college Campus.

- We went to **chapel everyday**

- We had a **week-long Bible conference** which we attended
- We had **dress codes**
 - **No jeans**, shirts with a color.
 - **Ladies** wore **skirts** to their knees
- We had to be **clean cut**-no hair on the ears, over the eyes, etc.

Of course, we had rules even when we were not in school

- Had to attend church-if you parents were in college there you had to attend the “**mother**” church
- Could not go to **movies**
- Could not **smoke, chew** or go with **girls** who do.
- We were not supposed to listen to **Rock-n-Roll** or even that new Christian Contemporary music!

The motto of our school was “**Distinctly Christian**”

- Our Alma Matter was interesting:
 - “In a city rich in history, state of Tennessee, Stands a school **of God’s own choosing**, Trains distinctively...”

I don’t regret going to school there!

- A lot of my **classmates** are involved in churches today, and some are in full-time ministry.
- I received a **good education**

However, there was a **negative repercussion** for me

- I **subconsciously** developed the idea that “**godliness**” was primarily an **outward** look.
 - The bigger the Bible=the **godlier** you are
 - **Polyester** 3-piece suites=**godliness**
 - **Clean cut**=**godliness**
 - Have you heard the saying “**Cleanliness is next to godliness**”?
- I began to believe that “**godly**” people must
 - **Look** a certain way
 - **Use** a certain **translation** of the Bible
 - **Talk** with a certain **vocabulary** (using a lot of Thee’s and Thou’s)

Some people **rebelled** after they **graduated**

- *Some classmates continue to rebel*
 - I **rebelled** after a year-and-a-half in a college which followed a similar (actually stricter) plan.
 - Being “**godly**” seemed to be nothing more than obeying a bunch of rules-most of which weren’t in the Bible!

- The Bible does not state:
 - The **English Translation** you are to use!
 - The length of **skirts** or **hair**
 - How many **church services** you are supposed to attend a week
 - Whether or not you can go to **movies!**
- I decided that if that is what a “**godly**” person looked like and did I didn’t want to be godly!

Problem: I had a ***distorted*** view of what it means to be godly

What does it mean to be **godly**?

- **WHAT** does a **godly** person **look like**?
- **HOW** does a **godly** person **act**?

Peter doesn’t answer that question!

- He just commands us to “**supplement our faith with godliness**”
- He told us in **v. 3** that God’s power has “**given us everything required for life and godliness**”
- At the end of his book in **2 Peter 3:11** Peter says that WE “**ought to live holy and godly lives**”

- But **Peter doesn't tell us what a godly person looks like!**

What does it mean to be **godly**?

PAUL elaborates on this subject-particularly in his **first** letter to **Timothy**. (*Turn to 1 Timothy*)

- Go **left past Hebrews**
- If you hit **2 Timothy** your getting warmer
 - Go to **1 Timothy**
 - If you get into the Thessalonians, you've gone too far!

This letter is written to the **Timothy** who is at the **church of Ephesus**

- **Ephesus was a wealthy commercial city**
 - The church was under attack by **false teachers**

Paul is **warning** Timothy about the **false teachers**

- Paul is giving the **characteristics** of **false teachers**
 - They are the **opposite** of "**godliness**"

1 Timothy 6:3–6 "If anyone teaches false doctrine and does not agree with the sound teaching of our Lord Jesus Christ and with the teaching that promotes godliness, (**Characteristics**) **4** he is conceited and understands

nothing, but has an unhealthy interest in disputes and arguments over words. **(Results)** From these come envy, quarreling, slander, evil suspicions, 5 and constant disagreement among people **(Characteristics)** whose minds are depraved and deprived of the truth, **(their thinking)** *who imagine that godliness is a way to material gain.* 6 But godliness with contentment is great gain.”

What does it mean to be godly?

Godliness=God-Centered not Self-Centered

1 Timothy 6: Ungodly people are *self-centered*:

- *Reject the “sound teaching of Christ”*
- *Reject the “teaching that promotes godliness”*

1 Timothy 6: Ungodly people are *self-centered*:

- *“imagine that godliness is a way to material gain”*
 - Try to leverage God so they can make money!

1 Timothy 6: Ungodly people are *self-centered*:

- **Characteristics:** *“conceited, [like] disputes and arguments over words.”*
- **Results:** *“envy, quarreling, slanders, evil suspicions, and constant disagreement.”*
 - Why? Self-centered not God-centered!

Godliness=God-Centered not Self-Centered

- **Godliness:** *characterized* by holding to the “**sound teaching of Christ**”
- **Godliness:** *characterized* by holding to the “**teaching that promotes godliness**”

Godliness: *characterized* by **Opposite** of ungodliness

- Opposite of **Conceit**=modesty
- Opposite of **disputation**=harmony
- Opposite of **envy**=contentment
- Opposite of **slander**=compliments
- Opposite of **evil suspicion**=trust

Godliness=God-Centered not Self-Centered

How to you become godly?

The fact that we are challenged to “**supplement our faith with godliness**” means you can **choose NOT** to **supplement your faith with godliness!**

- It is easy to get into the **Spiritual Olympic Stadium** (i.e. faith in Christ) and then **slip** into living a **self-centered** life!
- It is easy to use **church** as an **opportunity** to draw **attention** to **yourself** than Christ
- It is easy to use **God** as a means of trying to obtain **material** wealth!

- We all know of people who try to pass themselves off as godly, but the reality is they are trying to get rich off of God's people!

Godliness is **not** automatic!

NONE of these ingredients we are told to use to

“Supplement our faith” DO NOT happen **automatically!**

- One **doesn't** just live with **“goodness”** without **“effort”**
- One **doesn't** suddenly grow in **“knowledge”** without **“effort”**
- One **doesn't** automatically exercise **self-control** without **“effort”**
- One **doesn't** have a tendency to **“endure”** without **“effort”**
- *Godliness is no different:* Godliness is not automatic—it requires **“effort”!**

How do you take up this challenge?

- How do you **“supplement your faith with godliness”**?

Godliness Requires discipline

Paul talks a lot about **godliness** in his letter to Timothy. Here is what he commands Timothy to do:

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

That word “discipline” in the original language is “Gymnazo”!

- We get our word “Gymnasium” from this word!
 - People go to the Gymnasium to “**Train**”
 - i. Run drills, practice, work out, get ready for the game

In other words, treat your spiritual life like you do your physical life!

- **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

Why should we “supplement our faith with godliness”?

- **1 Timothy 4:8 (CSB)** — “For the training of the body has limited benefit, but godliness is beneficial in every way, (HOW?) since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.

Why should we “supplement our faith with godliness”?

Benefits Now

- **Supplementing your faith with godliness benefits you *now***
 - (You experience God’s **grace and peace** in increasing abundance, the **benefits of clarity, productivity, humility, stability and joy**)

Benefits Later

- **Supplementing your faith with godliness benefits you *later***
 - Living a godly life results in a life that makes an **impact** for eternity!
 - **Sacrifices** for God now pays eternal dividends in life’s changed

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

- **Serving** God with your gifts now pays **eternal dividends** in life's changed
- **Witnessing** now pays eternal dividends in **lives changed!**
- **Self-examination** now pays eternal dividends because you can avoid sin that will lead to regret for eternity (regret as in wasted time)!

Why should we “supplement our faith with godliness”?

- Because “**godliness**” **affects** your life **now** and in **eternity!**

WE

PQ: Are You Supplementing Your Faith?