How to Stop Doubting Your Salvation
2 Peter 1:3-11

ETS: Peter challenged believers to supplement their faith
ESS: Supplementing your faith with bring assurance of salvation and other benefits
OSS: I want people to supplement their faith
PQ: Are you Supplementing your faith?
UW: Supplements

ME

Do you ever feel scared?

- Adults, do you remember those "good old days" when we were in school and there was a big math test coming up. I do and those were those scary days.
    - After a few hours, I could do the take home problems, but when it came test time, it was like looking at a whole new set of problems that I had no idea how to solve.
        - For me, **math was difficult**. Test time scarred me because I didn't want a bad grade, yet I wasn't sure if I could avoid one!

What scares you? (Talk to your neighbor)

WE

Let me ask you some questions: Do you ever find yourself scared when it comes to eternal life?

- When you see a religious movie or even a Hollywood movie with a graphic depiction of hell, do you find yourself hoping that you don't wind up there?
  - ILL of watching "End Time's Movies" at Southside Baptist

When the preacher preaches a **hell, fire and brimstone** message do you find yourself squirming because you're scared that you may end up in Hell?

Growing up, I saw the same people "Get saved" numerous times

YOU may have prayed the "**Sinners prayer**" numerous times—just to be sure

- The thought of HELL is scary!

EXPAND ON HELL

- Descriptions
- Jesus talked about

Concluding our Series on Doubt: **How to Stop Doubting Your Salvation**

The GOSPEL= Good News!

- ***Explain the Good News for the SINNER***

Assumption: You have PERSONALLY humbled yourself, reaching out in faith to God and asked Jesus Christ to deliver you from the penalty of your sins.

You may still be plagued with doubt.

5 Reasons why people doubt their salvation:

1. Living in sin
2. Struggling with thought that God loves you
3. Misunderstanding the nature of salvation
4. Legalistic expectations
5. **Lack of Tangible Evidence** (explain this later)

Most Christians doubt their salvation at some point (or multiple times)

- After all, we won't realize the completeness of your salvation until we die.
    - If you die without Christ, it is too late

- So, we want to make sure we can face death with confidence that we are going to heaven!

What can you do to **STOP doubting** your salvation?

- How can you **strengthen** your faith?

GOD

Tuen to 2 Peter 1

One of the reasons, we may doubt our salvation is
Lack of Tangible Evidence

Salvation is an **abstract**

- It is something we believe we have by faith in Christ!

Problem: You **choose** Christ with your heart, soul, and mind, BUT didn't get a **CERTIFICATE** of Salvation you can hang on your wall!

- WE didn't receive an **investment of SALVATION COINS** into our bank accounts to cash in on your deathbed!
- We didn't receive an **email from heaven** saying "Here is your pass into heaven. Please redeem when you reach the Pearly Gates!"

Salvation is a **FAITH Transaction**!

- For this reason, doubts may arise: "Am I truly saved?"

Peter begins his letter with a list of promises of what believers have in Christ:

- **PROMISE:** "His divine power has given us everything required for life!
- **PROMISE:** "His divine power has given us everything required for godliness!
- **PROMISE:** Scripture is sufficient
- **PROMISE:** All believers have "received a faith equal to" the Apostles!
- **PROMISE:** "Grace and Peace"
- **PROMISE:** You can "share in the divine nature"
  - You have the POWER through Christ to say "NO" to "the corruption that is in the world…"

Summary: As a believer, you have EVERYTHING you need to live a godly life. You get what you need through the KNOWELDGE of God. God has given you everything because He CALLED you.

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

Watched the new documentary on the LIVERKING

- Brian Michael Johnson, known by his online alias Liver King, is an American health and fitness social media influencer and businessman.
    - One of his big pushes, outside of eating liver and other organ meats, is **supplements**.

People take **supplements** to assist the body in **nutrition deficits.**

- Many argue that we lack necessary nutrients due to
    - **Poorer food quality**
    - **Living inside too much**
    - **Hormonal changes**

We may have what we need, but supplements strength and add support

<u>WHY do you need to Supplement your faith?</u>

- <u>Isn't FAITH in Christ enough?</u>

There are BENEFITS to your Faith in Christ

- Benefit: **2 Peter 1:2** Benefit: Grace and Peace
- Benefit: **2 Peter 1:3** Benefit: You have everything required for life and godliness
- Benefit: **2 Peter 1:4** You are the recipient of very great and precious promises!

Your Faith in Christ gave you these BENEFITS!

BUT you may **not "Feel"** you have these BENEFITS **if you are doubting** Your salvation!

SUPPLEMENTING your Faith will strengthen your faith because THESE SUPPLEMENTS give you TANGIBLE evidence of your faith.

- These TANGIBLE "Supplements" will STRENGTHEN your Faith and give you CONFIDENCE.

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**!

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

HOW can we **supplement** our faith?

How to Stop Doubting Your Salvation

SUPPLEMENT YOUR FAITH WITH GOODNESS

The idea behind **"Goodness"** is **moral excellence** or **virtue**

Supplementing your faith with "**goodness**" means that you make a **commitment** to **virtue**" or **"Moral excellence**!

- God didn't save us to be immoral!

Remember, **one** of the reasons people doubt their salvation is they are **LIVING in Sin!**

- Living in Sin is NOT "supplementing your faith with goodness or virtue"
  - WHY? You are engaged in a **tangible activity/lifestyle** that **CONTRADICTS** what you **claim** to **believe**!
    - Since your **FLESH and SPIRIT are in conflict** due to living in or engaging in willful, habitual sin, doubts regarding your salvation arise!

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 "goodness" we **make tangible virtuous decisions** that bring glory to God and STRENGTHENS your faith!

- *A Strong faith is an assured faith!*

How to Stop Doubting Your Salvation

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 "supplement your faith with knowledge" means to grow in your **knowledge** of **how** to live out the Christian life **practically**.

What does "supplementing your faith with knowledge" looks like?

- APPLY the principles in God's Word to your daily life!
  - APPLY the principles in God's Word to your decisions
    - EX: Will this **decision** bring glory to God? Is this **decision** honest? Will this **decision** point people to Christ or build up other believers?
    - EX: Is this answer in keeping with God's Word?

For example, **Pastor John, Jerome, Daniel and Myself** try to meet occasionally to work through theology. Reason: I want to ensure we are all on the "**same page**" with our preaching/teaching and that we are biblical. Last week we met and discussed the "**Sufficiency of Scripture"**

- Sufficiency of Scripture means the Bible contains all we need to know.
  - That does not mean the Bible addresses every situation.

I asked the Pastors "How would you respond to boy or man who states that they want to become a girl?" from a biblical perspective.

- The Bible **does not address Transgenderism**.

In that case, we must apply the principles in Scripture:

- Principle #1: God created us Male and Female.
- Principle #2: God created us in His image
- Principle #3: God has a purpose for making you the way you are
- Principle #4: God loves you the way you are

HOW do you supplement your goodness with Knowledge?

- APPLY the principles in God's Word to your daily life!

Applying the principles of God's Word to your daily life is a **TANGIBLE** way to **demonstrate** your faith in Christ.

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….

How to Stop Doubting Your Salvation

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 **should**n'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**?

KNOW what you have!

- God has given you **everything** you need for "godliness"
  - Through Christ, you have the "**POWER**" to say "**no**" to sin
- You have a "Faith equal to the apostles" **(v. 2)**

KNOW WHO you ARE!

- **Sin is NOT your master!**
  - 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!

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".

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….

How to Stop Doubting Your Salvation

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, <u>do you give your child everything he/she wants?</u> You shouldn't!

- <u>Why?</u> 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 <u>where is God?</u>

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 pursing** 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**, <u>why would Satan bother you?</u>
        - 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.

How to Stop Doubting Your Salvation

SUPPLEMENT YOUR FAITH WITH GODLINESS

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 the world is going to end in fire and so We "ought to live holy and godly lives"
    - But **Peter doesn't tell** us what a godly person looks like!

<u>What does it mean to be godly?</u>

<u>What does it mean to be godly?</u>

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."
    - <u>Why?</u> 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 on the "step of faith" and **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 steps will happen **automatically**!
    - One **doesn't** just become "good"
    - One **doesn't** suddenly grow in "knowledge"
    - One **doesn't** automatically exercise self-control
    - One **doesn't** have a tendency to "endure"
- Godliness is no different
    - Godliness is not automatic!

How to Stop Doubting Your Salvation

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!

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!

How to Stop Doubting Your Salvation

SUPPLEMENT YOUR FAITH WITH LOVE

What is the difference between "Brotherly love" and "Love"

- Brotherly love is showing affection for someone
- "Love" is self-sacrificing for the good of another.

We are to self-sacrifice for the good of others—particularly those who are of the "household of faith"

- We are imitating Christ when we self-sacrifice

- Since Christ sacrificed for us, we should be willing to sacrifice for Him.
-

WE