

December 13, 2020

“Add to Your Faith”

By Michael Hickox

Olney Church of Christ

220 North Van Street
P.O. Box 683
Olney, IL 62450
217-218-0803
www.olneychurchofchrist.org

Services

Sunday

Bible Study	9:30 am
A.M. Worship	10:20 am
P.M. Worship	2:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Class	7:00 pm
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Elders: Mike Gerber, Travis Hall

Deacons: John Frost, Dave Goff, Roger Sholders

Visitors are welcome

We offer Bible classes for all ages

We also offer in-home Bible studies

We have Bible lessons on the radio
(92.9 FM) Sundays from 8:00-8:30 a.m.

2 Peter 1:5-7: And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.

In the above verses, the Holy Spirit through Peter instructs Christians to be diligent about developing a God-pleasing character.

The trait that is shown to be the foundation of the obedient Christian's life is "**faith**." This faith is "**assurance of things hoped for, a conviction of things not seen**" (Heb. 11:1).

Such conviction is not baseless, but is produced when a good and honest heart is fed the Word of God (**Matt. 13:23; Rom. 10:17**). To strengthen one's faith, a Christian must (1) have a good and honest heart and (2) feed his or her soul with the seed that builds faith.

The first trait Peter commands *adding* to our faith is "**virtue**." In a broad sense, virtue can refer to "**moral excellence**," as the *WEB* translates this term.

Sometimes the word for virtue refers more specifically to having the *courage* to do what is right, even when it's not easy. This too is something that must be added to the Christian's faith.

“Add to Your Faith”

(Continued)

2 Peter 1:5 continues by commanding that “**knowledge**” be added to virtue.

As **2 Peter 3:18** shows, Christians must *continuously* grow in knowledge of God’s will. This requires fervent study of, and meditation on, His Word.

The Holy Spirit through Peter also commands us to add “**temperance**” (or self-control) to our character (**2 Pet. 1:6**).

Temperance involves having an inner mastery over one’s desires and passions. For instance, controlling one’s *anger* is needful to avoid being quick-tempered and thus speaking rashly toward others in fits of wrath (**Eph. 4:26; Jas. 1:19-20**). Controlling one’s sexual desires is needful to avoid fornication, lasciviousness, and lust (cf. **Matt. 5:27-28**).

After commanding temperance, or self-control, in **2 Peter 1:6**, the inspired apostle commands “**patience**.”

Patience should be directed toward others (**1 Cor. 13:4**). Generally when Scripture speaks about patience, though, it involves continuance in doing what’s right, especially through trials (cf. **Rom. 12:12**). It is linked to endurance, perseverance, and steadfastness. Patience is the opposite of the seed that fell in rocky places in Jesus’ parable of the sower (i.e. shallow, shaky faith that stumbles when trials come) (**Matt. 13:20-21**).

Though many stumble when trials come,

the Bible is filled with examples of people whose faith endured through fiery trials (**Heb. 12:1; Jas. 5:10-11**).

An additional thing **2 Peter 1:6** teaches we must pursue is “**godliness**.”

Godliness does not necessarily mean *godlikeness*, though there *are* some characteristics of God we must imitate. Godliness, though, involves *reverence* and godly fear. It leads to recognition and acceptance of God’s authority.

The Holy Spirit through Peter also commands adding “**brotherly kindness**” to our character (**2 Pet. 1:7**). This involves a care and brotherly affection for fellow Christians. Such kindness is manifested in good deeds (**Gal. 6:10**).

The final characteristic commanded in **2 Peter 1:5-7** is *agape* love (“**charity**”).

When directed toward God, *agape* leads to full surrender to Him, putting His will above one’s own (cf. **1 John 5:3**).

When directed toward others, *agape* love involves selflessly seeking others’ highest good (**Phil. 2:4; 1 John 3:18**).

The word “**add**” in **2 Peter 1:5** shows that these character traits are not optional or impossible to obey. They do, though, require “**giving all diligence**.”

May we give diligence to add these things to our lives, and thus “**neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ**” (**2 Pet. 1:8**).

God's Plan for Saving Man

God's Grace	Ephesians 2:8
Christ's Blood	Romans 5:9
The Holy Spirit's Gospel	Romans 1:16
Sinner's Faith	Acts 16:31
Sinner's Repentance	Luke 13:3
Sinner's Confession	Romans 10:10
Sinner's Baptism	1 Peter 3:21
Christian's Work	James 2:24
Christian's Hope	Romans 8:24
Christian's Endurance	Revelation 2:10

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Words to Consider

"Oh taste and see that the LORD is good. Blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him." – Psalm 34:8

"These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." – John 16:33

"let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering; for He who promised is faithful." – Hebrews 10:23

Prayer List

Holly G
Sandy S
Mabel H
Cheryl S
Norma C
Raymond & Maxine
Ken & Chris F
Jeanette's Mother, Fontella
Jerry S (Prostate Cancer)
Carlyle (Hip)
Heather's Friend, Courtney
Barbara G (Cancer)
June H
Mike D (COVID recovery)
Lyla B (Leukemia recovery)
Roger & Family
Mary S (Pancreatic Cancer)

Daily Bible Reading

December 13 – Isaiah 30-31; Philippians 4
December 14 – Isaiah 32-33; Colossians 1
December 15 – Isaiah 34-36; Colossians 2
December 16 – Isaiah 37-38; Colossians 3
December 17 – Isaiah 39-40; Colossians 4
December 18 – Isaiah 41-42; 1 Thess. 1
December 19 – Isaiah 43-44; 1 Thess. 2

"And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:" – Ephesians 6:17

Prayer Leaders

Sunday, December 13, 2020

Bible Study: Darrell
Worship: Michael
Evening:

Wednesday, December 16, 2020

Assignments

Sunday, December 20, 2020

Reading: Travis
Announcements: Dan D
Table: Dan H
Serve: Mike
Mark

Wednesday, December 23, 2020

Invitation:

Clean Building

Paula

Prepare Communion

Paula

Upcoming Reminders

**Sunday afternoon services and Wednesday evening Bible classes are temporarily suspended, due to effects of COVID*

Anniversaries

Birthdays

December 13 – Donna B
December 21 – Linda
December 21 – Christie
December 22 – Jailyn
December 22 – Lauren