



MAIN SCRIPTURES

- II Peter 1:1
- II Peter 1:5-8
- II Peter 1:2-4; 10-11

JUST ADD PRACTICE...

- This is what you begin with...
- This is what you add...
- This is what you receive...

FOUNDATIONAL SCRIPTURES:

“Yes, and for this very cause **adding on your part** all diligence, in your faith supply **moral excellence [virtue]**; and in moral excellence, **knowledge**; and in knowledge, **self-control**; and in self-control, **perseverance**; and in perseverance, **godliness**; and in godliness, **brotherly affection**; and in brotherly affection, **love.**”

2 Peter 1:5-7 WEBUS

INTRODUCTION: Just Add Practice

It should be so simple. It's all but finished right out of the box —just one final ingredient, an item amply available, and the recipe is complete. Sure, it's an integral component and is required to bring the entire formula to life, but it's readily accessible and safe to handle. Plus, the instructions are about as easy to implement as it is to solve one plus one. Unpack everything in your box and “just add water.” Oh that your Christian walk would be so simple.

Your Christian lifestyle does share one commonality with this useful analogy. When you read the instructions on the side of the box, there is only one ingredient missing, one integral component. Nevertheless, that is where the similarities end. It is not amply available, nor readily accessible; and it is not safe to handle, nor is it easy to implement—far from it. And the instructions are complicated and it always gets messy once the box is opened. That must be why most Christians never break the seal. However, if you are willing, this is the ingredient and these are the instructions.

*Just add P.R.A.C.T.I.C.E. **P**ersistent **R**epetition **A**ccelerates **C**haracter **T**ransformation **I**mpacting **C**hristian **E**thos. Your ethos is the characteristic spirit of your lifestyle and culture, how you operate in your community as a manifestation of your core beliefs and aspirations.*

Instructions: open the box, just add practice, a complex ingredient and very risky to handle. Practice is a complicated element: to your faith add virtue, to virtue add knowledge, to knowledge add self-control, to self-control add perseverance, to perseverance add godliness, to godliness add brotherly affection, and to brotherly affection add love. Combine and mix these sub-components of practice very carefully and in the perfect sequence, or the entire recipe will be ruined. Or, maybe it's just safer to leave the box unopened and not mess with the one missing ingredient.

How bad can that be? Do you really want to know? Well, it's ugly; the contents inside the box will eventually rot if you don't use them correctly—if you don't bring the entire formula to life; and there is simply no way to know how long it will take before it festers. So, each day you leave the box closed and don't add the missing ingredient, you are one day closer to your Christian walk becoming infested with maggots.

THIS IS WHAT YOU BEGIN WITH...

1. Grace and Faith imparted to Faith and Grace in Action

A. The Dynamic Duo: the gift and the practice

(1) Two Types of Faith (saving faith and living faith)

(a) **THE GIFT:** You have received a gift... ([Faith Like Mine](#))

1. "Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who **through the righteousness** of our God and Savior Jesus Christ **have received a faith** as precious as ours:" 2 Peter 1:1 NIV

2. It's the Simple Gospel of Salvation that can only come through His righteousness!

a) Becoming a child of God is easy...

1) "*But **as many as received him**, to them he gave **the right to become God's children**, to those who **believe in his name**: who were **born**, not of*

*blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but **of God.***" John 1:12-13 WEBUS

b) Believe what? For God so love the world...

1) *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only born Son, that **whoever believes in him** should not perish, but have eternal life."* John 3:16 WEBUS

c) Believe how? Confess with your mouth and believe in your heart...

1) *"But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart;" **that is, the word of faith which we preach:** that if you will **confess with your mouth** that Jesus is Lord and **believe in your heart** that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For **with the heart one believes** resulting in righteousness; and **with the mouth confession is made** resulting in salvation. For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes in him will not be disappointed.""*

Romans 10:8-11 WEBUS

d) Repent and be baptized...

1) *"Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the*

apostles, “**Brothers, what shall we do?**” Peter said to them, “**Repent and be baptized**, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” Acts 2:37-38 WEBUS

- e) God must grant repentance before one can repent...
 - 1) “*The Lord’s servant must not quarrel, but be gentle toward all, able to teach, patient, in gentleness correcting those who oppose him. Perhaps God may give them repentance leading to a full knowledge of the truth, and they may recover themselves out of the devil’s snare, having been taken captive by him to do his will.*” 2 Timothy 2:24-26 WEBUS
- f) Christ crucified...
 - 1) “*For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus **Christ** and him **crucified.**” 1 Corinthians 2:2 WEBUS*
- g) Even this simple message would seem like utter nonsense unless God had acted first...
 - 1) “*For **the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are dying**, but to us who are being*

*saved it is the power of God.” 1 Corinthians
1:18 WEBUS*

2) *“Now the natural man doesn’t receive the things
of God’s Spirit, for **they are foolishness to him**;
and he can’t know them, because **they are
spiritually discerned.**” 1 Corinthians 2:14*

WEBUS

h) You would never get it on your own; God MUST
reveal it...

1) *“He said to them, “But who do you say that I
am?” Simon Peter answered, “**You are the
Christ, the Son of the living God.**” Jesus
answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar
Jonah, **for flesh and blood has not revealed this
to you, but my Father who is in heaven.**”*

Matthew 16:15-17 WEBUS

(b) **THE PRACTICE:** For this very reason—use that gift...

1. “But also **for this very reason**, giving all diligence,
add to your faith...” II Peter 1:5 NKJV

a) From free faith to the practice of faith...

1) *“For I am not ashamed of the Good News of
Christ, because it is **the power of God for
salvation** for everyone who believes, for the Jew*

*first, and also for the Greek. For **in it is revealed God's righteousness from faith to faith.** As it is written, "But the righteous shall live by faith."*

Romans 1:16-17 WEBUS

b) Don't be deceived by thinking God will change His mind...

1) *"Don't be deceived, my beloved brothers. **Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom can be no variation nor turning shadow.**" James 1:16-17 WEBUS*

c) What began as a gift must end with work...

1) *"for **by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, that no one would boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared before that we would walk in them.**" Ephesians 2:8-10*

WEBUS

d) Without the practice of Faith, it's impossible to please God...

1) *"**Without faith it is impossible to be well pleasing to him, for he who comes to God must***

believe that he exists, and that he is a rewarder of those who seek him.” Hebrews 11:6 WEBUS

e) Without the evidence of practice, the faith you claim to possess is not real...

1) ***“What good is it, my brothers, if a man says he has faith, but has no works? Can faith save him?”*** James 2:14 WEBUS

f) In other words, your faith without practice is dead...

1) ***“Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead in itself. Yes, a man will say, “You have faith, and I have works.” Show me your faith without works, and I will show you my faith by my works.”*** James 2:17-18 WEBUS

g) Full Circle: Saving faith comes from His righteousness...

1) ***“Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who **through the righteousness** of our God and Savior Jesus Christ **have received a faith** as precious as ours:”*** 2 Peter 1:1 NIV

(2) A critical error!

(a) Self-righteousness

1. “For being **ignorant of God’s righteousness**, and **seeking to establish their own righteousness**, they didn’t subject themselves to **the righteousness of God**. For **Christ is the fulfillment of the law for righteousness** to everyone who believes.” Romans 10:3-4 WEBUS

a) Grace, Faith and Works

- 1) Grace: the delivery mechanism
- 2) Faith: the package
- 3) Works: the practice

b) Correction

- 1) “for **by grace [the delivery company]** you have **been saved through faith [the free package]**, and that **not of yourselves [self-righteousness]**; **it is the gift of God [His righteousness]**, not of works, that no one would **boast [self-righteousness]**. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus **for good works [the practice of faith]**, which God prepared before that we would walk in them.” Ephesians 2:8-10

WEBUS

(3) Two Types of Godly Righteousness

(a) Imputed Righteousness

1. Through His and in His righteousness

a) Through His righteousness!

- 1) *“Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who **through the righteousness** of our God and Savior Jesus Christ **have received a faith** as precious as ours:” 2 Peter 1:1
NIV*

b) In Him we become righteous!

- 1) *“For him who knew no sin he made to be sin on our behalf, **so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.**” 2 Corinthians 5:21
WEBUS*

(b) Practiced Righteousness

1. Practice righteousness to be righteous!

a) He who practices righteousness...

- 1) *“Little children, let no one deceive you. **He who practices righteousness is righteous**, just as He is righteous.” 1 John 3:7 NKJV*

b) He who does not practice righteousness...

- 1) *“In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: **Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God**, nor is he*

who does not love his brother.” I John 3:10

NKJV

c) Not hearing but doing...

1) *“For it is not those who hear the law who are righteous in God’s sight, but **it is those who obey the law who will be declared righteous.**”*

Romans 2:13 NIV

2. Righteousness: Mistaken to Imparted to Practiced, and how—all in one place! ([Cognitive Dissonance](#))

a) The Error: Mistaken Righteousness

1) *“For being **ignorant of God’s righteousness**, and **seeking to establish their own righteousness**, they didn’t subject themselves to the righteousness of God.”* Romans 10:3 WEBUS

b) The Correction: Imparted Righteousness

1) *“For **Christ** is the fulfillment of the law **for righteousness to everyone who believes.**”*

Romans 10:4 WEBUS

c) The Result: Practiced Righteousness

1) *“For Moses writes about the righteousness of the law, **“The one who does them will live by them.”** [And] **the righteousness which is of faith** says this, “Don’t say in your heart, ‘Who will*

*ascend into heaven?’ (that is, to bring Christ down); or, ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’ (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead.)” But what does it say? **“The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart [to do it! Deut. 30:14];” that is, the word of faith which we preach:**” Romans 10:5-8 WEBUS*

d) The Mechanism: Faith and righteousness come the way the word says they come—interpreting correctly what God’s words says!

1) *“So **faith comes by hearing**, and hearing by the word of God.”* Romans 10:17 WEBUS

(4) The Role of Grace

(a) The Free Delivery

1. *“for **by grace you have been saved through faith**, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,”* Ephesians 2:8 WEBUS

a) By grace you receive faith that reconciles you to God...

1) *“Being therefore **justified by faith**, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ;”* Romans 5:1 WEBUS

(b) After you are justified by faith, more of that grace is accessible by practicing the faith that was a gift...

1. **“through whom we also have our access by faith into this grace** in which we stand. We rejoice in hope of the glory of God.” Romans 5:2 WEBUS

a) The grace available is not just the same amount of grace that allowed you to be saved, but an exponential amount!

1) **“Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord,”** II Peter 1:2 NKJV

(5) Stewardship and practice of grace...

(a) Minister it as a faithful steward!

1. **“As each has received a gift, employ it [minister it]** in serving one another, as good **managers [stewards]** of the **grace** of God in its various forms.” 1 Peter 4:10 WEBUS

(b) Work it to show God’s power!

1. **“With great power** the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And **God’s grace was so powerfully at work in them all.**” Acts 4:33 NIV

(c) Impart it to others so they experience it too!

1. “Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, **that it may impart grace to the hearers.**” Ephesians 4:29 NKJV

(6) Summary

- (a) A faith you get for free that becomes a faith you put into practice...

1. P.R.A.C.T.I.C.E.

- a) **Persistent Repetition Accelerates Character**

Transformation Impacting Christian Ethos

- 1) Ethos: the characteristic spirit of a culture, era, or community as manifested in its beliefs and aspirations

2. Practice {synonymous}

- a) For our purposes...

- 1) Discipleship, Character, Development, Work, Maturity, Advancement, Leadership, Lifestyle, Witness, Influence

THIS IS WHAT YOU ADD...

2. Practice: Add to Your faith

A. What does it take to win the ultimate prize?

- (1) It takes knowing the winning numbers AND playing those numbers!

- (a) The winning numbers in this spiritual lottery must be played in the proper order...
 - 1. The order of the numbers is as important as knowing the numbers.
 - a) If you don't play the numbers in the perfect sequence you cannot be guaranteed to win.
 - 2. What would stop you from playing?
 - a) If you knew the magnitude and permanence of the winnings from this spiritual lottery, and you knew the numbers it would take win, what could possibly stop you from playing?
- (b) To your faith add...
 - 1. "Yes, and for this very cause adding on your part all diligence, in your faith supply **moral excellence [virtue]**; and in moral excellence, **knowledge**; and in knowledge, **self-control**; and in self-control, **perseverance**; and in perseverance, **godliness**; and in godliness, **brotherly affection**; and in brotherly affection, **love.**" 2 Peter 1:5-7 WEBUS

(2) Seven Winning Numbers

- (a) **(#’s 1-4) The Cycle of Life:** Every decision, every conflict, and every problem should be filtered through the process of these first four steps—every day!

1. **#1 Virtue:** moral excellence is the first thing to follow faith and must precede all others, or your coordinates will ALWAYS be off target!
 - a) The problem with simply thinking of virtue as moral excellence is that morality according to world standards is an ever-changing moving target.
 - b) What was considered unacceptable yesterday is perfectly fine today. In fact, today it is intolerable to believe of yesterday's atrocities as immoral. This is what happens when man's heart is used to define virtue.
 - c) Instead, we will define virtue as what is morally excellent to God—truth that never changes. To build upon our faith we must first consider:
 - 1) What is right to God in this situation?
 - 2) What does Yahweh think about this?
 - 3) What is God's heart on this matter?
 - d) To know what God wants us to do we must tap into the heart of God. Fortunately, we have been...
 - 1) **Prepared...** *"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared before that we would walk in them."* Ephesians 2:10 WEBUS

- 2) **Enabled...** *“For **who has known the mind of the Lord** that he should instruct him?” But **we have Christ’s mind.**” 1 Corinthians 2:16 WEBUS*
- 3) **Commissioned...** *“**throwing down imaginations** and every high thing that is exalted against the knowledge of God and **bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ**, and being **in readiness to avenge all disobedience** when your obedience is made full.” 2 Corinthians 10:5-6 WEBUS*
- 4) **Programmed...** *“**My sheep hear my voice**, and I know them, and they follow me.” John 10:27 WEBUS*
- 5) **Obligated...** *“he who says he remains in him **ought himself also to walk just like he walked.**” 1 John 2:6 WEBUS*

e) It is critical that we start with knowing what is right in God’s eyes before we attempt to add one bit of our own knowledge.

2. # **2 Knowledge:** the additional information you need to know in order to act wisely!

a) To do what is right in God’s eyes we must fill in the knowledge gap.

- 1) What am I missing?
 - 2) What do I need to know before I act?
- b) This applies first in the spiritual realm as Paul prays for us by asking...
- 1) *“that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you **a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him,**”* Ephesians 1:17 WEBUS
- c) About what? About all things that pertain to Y’shua, what He has done for us and what we have available at our disposal because of what He has done for us (His divine power)...
- 1) *“having **the eyes of your hearts enlightened,** that you may **know what is the hope of his calling,** and what are the riches of **the glory of his inheritance** in the saints, and what is **the exceeding greatness of his power toward us** who believe, **according to that working of the strength of his might which he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead** and made him to sit at his right hand in the heavenly places,”* Ephesians 1:18-20 WEBUS

- d) God has placed in you the ability to gain all the information necessary in order to proceed forward in a way that is pleasing to Him!
 - 1) *“But to us, **God revealed them through the Spirit.** For the Spirit searches all things, yes, **the deep things of God.** {12} But we received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is from God, **that we might know the things that were freely given to us by God.**”* 1 Corinthians 2:10, 12 WEBUS
- e) If you add knowledge before you are aiming in the right direction according to God (which is the virtuous thing to do), then no matter how much knowledge you gain, and no matter how much of an expert you become, **YOU WILL ALWAYS MISS THE TARGET.**
 - 1) Do you want to hit the target that Yahweh is holding out in front of you?
- f) With the deep revelation and knowledge of God, you can then seek all the information necessary to make wise choices and to take wise action. How is this done effectively?
- g) To make wise choices: **(All equally important!)**

- 1) **Do Research:** *“Every prudent man **acts from knowledge**, but a fool exposes folly.”* Proverbs 13:16 WEBUS
- 2) **Study Hard:** *“**Give diligence [study]** to present yourself approved by God, a workman who doesn’t need to be ashamed, **properly handling the Word of Truth.**”* 2 Timothy 2:15 WEBUS
- 3) **Seek Wise Counsel:** *“Where there is no counsel, plans fail; but **in a multitude of counselors they are established.**”* Proverbs 15:22 WEBUS
- 4) **Be in Prayer:** *“**In nothing be anxious**, but in everything, **by prayer and petition** with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.”* Philippians 4:6 WEBUS
- 5) **Be Relentless:** *“...The **insistent prayer** of a righteous person **is powerfully effective.**”* James 5:16 WEBUS
- 6) **Keep on Asking:** *““**Ask**, and it will be given you. **Seek**, and you will find. **Knock**, and it will be opened for you.”* Matthew 7:7 WEBUS
Examples... (Details in Perseverance)
 - a. The relentless faith of the mother of a demon possessed girl in Matthew 15:21-28.

- b. The insistent nature of widow seeking justice in Luke 18:1-8.
 - c. They asked and kept asking until the blessing came like Jacob in Genesis 32:22-29. *"I won't let you go unless you bless me."*
- 7) **Trust but Verify:** *"Now these were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that **they received the word with all readiness of mind, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so.**" Acts 17:11 WEBUS*
 - 8) **Be Patient:** *"Let's not be weary in doing good, for we will reap **in due season** if we don't give up." Galatians 6:9 WEBUS*
 - 9) **Receive without Doubt:** *"But if any of you lacks wisdom, **let him ask of God**, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But **let him ask in faith, without any doubting**, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, driven by the wind and tossed." James 1:5-6 WEBUS*
- a. Note: *"I believe. Help my unbelief!"* Mark 9:24 WEBUS

10) **Ask with Purity:** *“You ask, and don’t receive, because you ask with **wrong motives**, so that you may spend it on your pleasures.”* James 4:3

WEBUS

11) **Make it a Priority:** *“if you seek her [wisdom] as silver, and **search for her as for hidden treasures**; then you will understand the fear of Yahweh, **and find the knowledge of God.**”*

Proverbs 2:4-5 WEBUS

12) **Agreement with God’s Word:** *“I will bow down toward your holy temple, and give **thanks to your Name** for your loving kindness **and for your truth**; for you have **exalted your Name and your Word above all.**”* Psalms 138:2 WEBUS

h) Even after the necessary knowledge has been attained, there is still room for...

1) **Challenges:** difficulties taking the next step

a. *“I have told you these things, that in me you may have peace. **In the world you have trouble**; but cheer up! I have overcome the world.”* John 16:33 WEBUS

2) **Lust:** the desires for the things of the world

- a. *“**Don’t love the world** or the things that are in the world. If anyone loves the world, the Father’s love isn’t in him. **For all that is in the world**—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—isn’t the Father’s, but is the world’s.”* 1 John 2:15-16 WEBUS
 - b. *“**Flee from youthful lusts**; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.”* 2 Timothy 2:22 WEBUS
- 3) **Temptations**: pulling in the wrong direction
- a. *“**No temptation has taken you except what is common to man.** God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted above what you are able, but will **with the temptation also make the way of escape**, that you may be able to endure it.”* 1 Corinthians 10:13 WEBUS
- 4) **Expedience**: the wide road of less resistance
- a. *“**Enter in by the narrow gate**; for the gate is **wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction**, and there are many who enter in by it.”* Matthew 7:13 WEBUS
- 5) **Outside Influence**: The way of the majority

- a. *“**You shall not follow a crowd** to do evil. You shall not testify in court to side with a multitude to pervert justice.” Exodus 23:2*

WEBUS

6) **Confusion:** negative self-talk and doubt

- a. *“for **God is not a God of confusion** but of peace, as in all the assemblies of the saints.”*

1 Corinthians 14:33 WEBUS

7) **Procrastination:** doing what is not necessary or nothing at all

- a. *“and one of you tells them, “Go in peace. Be warmed and filled;” **yet you didn’t give them the things the body needs, what good is it?”***

James 2:16 WEBUS

- b. *“Don’t say to your neighbor, “Go, and come again; **tomorrow I will give it to you,” when you have it by you.”** Proverbs 3:28 WEBUS*

8) **Distractions:** opportunities to lose focus

- a. *“**Let your eyes look straight ahead.** Fix your gaze directly before you.” Proverbs 4:25*

WEBUS

- b. *“**No soldier on duty entangles himself in the affairs of life,** that he may please him who*

enrolled him as a soldier.” 2 Timothy 2:4

WEBUS

9) **Poor use of Time:** ample opportunities to waste time

a. *“Therefore **watch carefully how you walk**, not as unwise, but as wise, **redeeming the time**, because the days are evil.” Ephesians 5:15-16* WEBUS

10) **Chasing Mammon:** wealth regarded as an evil influence or false object of worship and devotion.

a. *“**No one can serve two masters**, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You can’t serve both God and Mammon.” Matthew 6:24* WEBUS

i) That is why it takes self-control next to both act and act wisely.

1) Once you see the target and you know all you need to do to hit that target, it takes energy and effort to move in that direction!

3. # **3 Self-control:** to act wisely and not by your first impulses and desires! Wisdom is the godly

application of knowledge and understanding (See: [The Call of Wisdom](#) & [The Value of Wisdom](#))

- a) Once you know what God wants you to do and you have filled in the knowledge gap, you must have the self-control to do it.
- b) The action of self-control has two arms:
 - 1) One is to take action
 - 2) The other is to be on constant guard that your actions stay in alignment with #1 Virtue & # 2 Knowledge.
- c) At times...It can be desirous to default to what appears easier. It can be tiring to pursue the call of God
 - 1) Even in the little things in life, you must be on alert that you are staying the course that God has laid out for you.
 - a. *“You shall observe to do therefore as Yahweh your God has commanded you. **You shall not turn away to the right hand or to the left. You shall walk in all the way which Yahweh your God has commanded you, that you may live and that it may be well with you, and that you may prolong your days in the land which***

you shall possess.” Deuteronomy 5:32-33

WEBUS

b. *“and **when you turn to the right hand, and when you turn to the left**, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, **“This is the way. Walk in it.”**”* Isaiah 30:21 WEBUS

c. *“Yahweh says, “Stand in the ways and see, and ask for the old paths, ‘Where is the good way?’ **and walk in it**, and you will find rest for your souls. **But they said, ‘We will not walk in it.’**”* Jeremiah 6:16 WEBUS

d. **Tragic:** *“I set watchmen over you, saying, ‘Listen to the sound of the trumpet!’ **But they said, ‘We will not listen!’**”* Jeremiah 6:17

WEBUS

d) Expedience is often the spirit of the day—to do what is convenient and practical although possibly improper and immoral.

1) If it is easier, takes less effort, gets the quick flesh-satisfying results, and leaves plenty of energy to fill your life with more stuff that satisfies your craven desires.

- 2) The temptation to go in that direction will always be lurking in the background, so be on guard.
- e) Self-control has two components...
- 1) To do: once you know what to do and how to do it, you must do it.
 - 2) To not do: you must also know what not to do and then you must not do those things.
- f) Telling yourself no, when yes is so tempting; and telling yourself yes, when no would be so much more convenient, is to live a life of self-control.
- 1) *“For **I don’t understand what I am doing. For I don’t practice what I desire to do; but what I hate, that I do.** But if what I don’t desire, that I do, I consent to the law that it is good. So now it is no more I that do it, but sin which dwells in me. For I know that in me, that is, in my flesh, dwells no good thing. **For desire is present with me, but I don’t find it doing that which is good. For the good which I desire, I don’t do; but the evil which I don’t desire, that I practice.**”*

Romans 7:15-19 WEBUS

- g) Self-governance and self-mastery are regular practices for disciples of Christ.
 - 1) Don't consider this merely from a personal improvement self-help position.
 - 2) Think instead about dying to the flesh because you are filled with the Spirit! (Read Roman 6-8)
 - 3) Knowing the right thing to do hardly ever translates into doing the right thing unless you are a regular practitioner of self-control.
- h) And then, there is oftentimes this lingering dilemma.
 - 1) You know what you should do and you do it!
 - 2) You are certain it is right in God's eyes, so you keep on doing it!
 - 3) Even though you are sure about it, it just does not seem to be working as expected and it's not getting any easier!
- i) How long should you stick with it?
 - 1) Answer: as long as it takes—all the way to FOREVER!
 - 2) It is never the wrong time to do the right thing and it is never the right time to stop doing the right thing.

- j) And that is why God tells us that after self-control, perseverance comes next!
4. **#4 Perseverance:** Doing what is right, no matter how hard, or how long it takes, or what the cost!
- a) Suffering: It is clear that suffering, challenges, and difficulties are part of the process. If Y'shua suffered, why not us?
 - 1) Y'shua warned, "*In this world **you will have trials.***" (John 16:33)
 - 2) Paul's exhortation, "***It is through many tribulations** that we enter the Kingdom of Heaven.*" (Acts 14:22)
 - 3) We are "*joint heirs with Christ, **if indeed we suffer** with Him, that we may also be glorified with Him.*" (Romans 8:17)
 - b) And that is where perseverance shines! No matter how long or what the challenges. Think about it!
 - 1) "*Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, **not my will, but yours, be done.***" Luke 22:42 WEBUS
 - 2) "*Jesus said, "**Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing.***" Dividing his

*garments among them, they cast lots.” Luke
23:34 WEBUS*

- c) Think of perseverance as PERMANENT SELF-CONTROL.
 - 1) You know what is right from God!
 - 2) You know how to do and you do it!
 - 3) You discipline yourself from straying off course, but it still won't happen!
 - 4) The fruit is elusive; the breakthrough absent; and hope starts to fade!
- d) Don't ever surrender! Don't give up! That is what perseverance looks like: permanent, relentless, never-ending self control.
- e) Three Examples of Tenacious Perseverance: *“I won't let you go unless you bless me.”*
 - 1) **The relentless faith of the mother of a demon possessed girl:** *“Jesus went out from there and withdrew into the region of Tyre and Sidon. Behold, a Canaanite woman came out from those borders and cried, saying, “Have mercy on me, Lord, you son of David! **My daughter is severely possessed by a demon!**” But he answered her not a word. His disciples came*

*and begged him, saying, "Send her away; for she cries after us." But he answered, "I wasn't sent to anyone but the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and worshiped him, saying, "Lord, help me." But he answered, "It is not appropriate to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." But she said, "Yes, Lord, but even the dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters' table." **Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith!** Be it done to you even as you desire." And her daughter was healed from that hour." Matthew 15:21-28*

WEBUS

2) **The insistent nature of widow seeking justice:**

*"He also spoke a parable to them that they must always pray and not give up, saying, "There was a judge in a certain city who didn't fear God and didn't respect man. A widow was in that city, and she often came to him, saying, 'Defend me from my adversary!' He wouldn't for a while; but afterward he said to himself, 'Though I neither fear God nor respect man, **yet because this widow bothers me, I will defend her, or***

else she will wear me out by her continual coming.’” The Lord said, “Listen to what the unrighteous judge says. Won’t God avenge his chosen ones who are crying out to him day and night, and yet he exercises patience with them? I tell you that he will avenge them quickly. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?”” Luke 18:1-8

WEBUS

- 3) **Asking and keep asking until the blessing comes like Jacob:** *“He rose up that night, and took his two wives, and his two servants, and his eleven sons, and crossed over the ford of the Jabbok. He took them, and sent them over the stream, and sent over that which he had. Jacob was left alone, and wrestled with a man there until the breaking of the day. When he saw that he didn’t prevail against him, the man touched the hollow of his thigh, and the hollow of Jacob’s thigh was strained as he wrestled. The man said, “Let me go, for the day breaks.” Jacob said, “**I won’t let you go unless you bless me.**” He said to him, “What is your name?” He said, “Jacob”. He*

said, "Your name will no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have fought with God and with men, and have prevailed." Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." He said, "Why is it that you ask what my name is?" So he blessed him there." Genesis 32:22-29 WEBUS

- f) Seven things to consider as you persevere:
- 1) Sometimes things just take more time than expected: "**Let's not be weary in doing good,** for we will reap in due season if we don't give up. So then, as we have opportunity, **let's do what is good toward all men,** and especially toward those who are of the household of the faith." Galatians 6:9-10 WEBUS
 - 2) Sometimes the desired outcome is delayed because you are being tested: "Not only this, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that **suffering produces perseverance;** and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; and hope doesn't disappoint us, because **God's love has been poured into our hearts** through the Holy Spirit who was given to us." Romans 5:3-5 WEBUS

- 3) Sometimes the desired outcome is delayed because you are being disciplined: ***“It is for discipline that you endure. God deals with you as with children, for what son is there whom his father doesn’t discipline? But if you are without discipline, of which all have been made partakers, then you are illegitimate, and not children. {11} All chastening seems for the present to be not joyous but grievous; yet afterward it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.”*** Hebrews 12:7-8, 11 WEBUS
- 4) Sometimes your actions are meant to be permanent: ***God “will render to each one according to his deeds”***: eternal life to those who ***by patient continuance in doing good*** seek for glory, honor, and immortality; ***but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness—indignation and wrath,***” Romans 2:6-8 NKJV
- 5) Sometimes you need to reevaluate your actions: ***“All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes, but Yahweh weighs the motives. Commit***

your deeds to Yahweh, and your plans shall succeed." Proverbs 16:2-3 WEBUS

6) Sometimes you come to the end because the job is complete: "**Well done**, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a few things, I will set you over many things. Enter into the joy of your Lord." Matthew 25:21 WEBUS

7) Sometimes you've made a mistake and you must be humble enough to admit you may have made an error: "**Pride** goes before destruction, and an **arrogant spirit** before a fall." Proverbs 16:18
WEBUS

8) Go back to beginning. Start with #1 Virtue. Maybe that was not God's voice you heard; maybe you are still lacking some critical information; maybe you took a misstep when you began to act.

g) A special note about tribulations and hope in relationship to perseverance...

1) "...we also rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that **suffering produces perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; and hope doesn't disappoint**

us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us." Romans 5:3-5 WEBUS

- 2) Hope is born from the ashes of suffering?
 - 3) If one stays the course while suffering, it produces perseverance; and perseverance is a key stage in your discipleship training because it develops and tests your character.
 - 4) Your character is accentuated and revealed at times when hope is all you have to sustain you.
 - 5) Our lives are preserved by hope in our time of waiting—in other words, while persevering.
- h) Hope is the sense of feeling relieved from suffering and doubt, even though in actuality the relief has not yet come.
- 1) If it had, it would not be considered hope, but reality.
 - 2) No one hopes for what has already happened; that would be absurd.
 - 3) But, to hope for what has not yet occurred, in what we cannot see with our eyes, that takes faith, patience, persistence, and perseverance.

4) And for that, every child of God should remain eager.

(b) (**#’s 5-7) The Outcome:** when you have become a serious disciple, one who practices (#’s 1-4) faithfully, these are the results!

5. **# 5 Godliness:** this is holistic integrity!

a) Think of integrity as a structural engineering term.

1) When a structure is designed correctly, it has integrity—it functions safely as it should and can be trusted.

2) An engineering project cannot be completed with excellence unless all the raw materials being used for design and construction are utilized in perfect alignment with their natural properties (tolerances, strengths and limitations, functions, etc.)

3) You won’t want to cross a bridge suspended over a deep chasm if cables were used under the bridge to hold it up and the concrete blocks were used on the top as suspension support, would you?

- 4) Instead, you want materials to be used for why they were created—in alignment with their natural design characteristics!
 - 5) Suspension cables are best when used to suspend something from above. Why? Because its natural characteristics lend to strength when pulled.
 - 6) Concrete is best when used to support something from below. Why? Because its natural characteristics lend to strength when compressed.
 - 7) When all facets of the bridge are in integrity, it is safe to cross and will offer years of faithful service to those who traverse the deep valley below.
- b) Godliness is holistic integrity.
- 1) It means that your spirit, soul and body are all in complete alignment with what they were designed for by their Creator.
 - 2) There is no loss of strength in any area—thereby we are godly when living with holistic integrity.
- c) This alignment comes with great benefits:

- 1) Picture the favor of God pouring out of Heaven like rain; all you must do is stand beneath it.
 - 2) In other words, align yourself with where the rain is falling.
 - 3) If you are not standing under the cloud of God's grace pouring out, what do you think you should do? Will God move over to you, or must you move under God's outpouring?
 - 4) Stepping underneath God or "aligning" ourselves with God's outpouring, His grace, His anointing, in all areas of life, is a life of holistic integrity.
 - 5) This is the best description of godliness.
 - 6) Another way of saying this is that our lives have come into alignment with God's will.
- d) This is something that must be practiced; it will not come easily, but it is certainly how we are called to live.
- 1) God sanctifies us and yet we are called to preserve that sanctification.
 - 2) Sanctified: the state of and the practice of being holy or set-apart, in spirit, soul, and body at the coming of Christ.

3) *“May the God of peace himself sanctify you completely. May your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”* 1 Thessalonians 5:23
WEBUS

e) In other words, we must exercise godliness:

1) *“But refuse profane and old wives’ fables. Exercise yourself toward godliness. For bodily exercise has some value, but godliness has value in all things, having the promise of the life which is now and of that which is to come.”* 1 Timothy 4:7-8
WEBUS

f) Please be aware of this critical distinction however; godliness is not perfection in every area of life, but rather the pursuit of perfection.

1) If it was perfection it would be # 7 {Love} and not # 5 in Peter’s discipleship model.

2) *“But godliness with contentment is great gain.”* 1 Timothy 6:6
WEBUS

3) We can and should find complete satisfaction in the pursuit of the things of God, even in the midst of the mistakes we make along the way,

and the weaknesses that manifest in our characters.

- 4) God is good with the process it takes to remedy our sinful errors as long as we don't feel good making those sinful errors!
- g) Our desire to align every area of our lives with the will of God makes us perfect candidates to pour our lives and all this goodness onto others—we can become a source of God's grace.
 - 1) *“Let no corrupt speech proceed out of your mouth, but only what is good for building others up as the need may be, that it may **give [impart] grace** to those who hear.”* Ephesians 4:29

WEBUS

- h) That is why the way we treat others is next.
6. # **6 Brotherly Affection:** It's simple, but not easy; prefer others and the needs of others over yourself and your own needs!
- a) A serious disciple of Christ has so much to give others.
 - b) Just meditate for a moment on all that we just reviewed and think about the type of person you have become to arrive at this place!

- c) You have so many good things pouring into your life, but why? What for?
 - 1) Christian Alert! It's not about you!
 - 2) It's easy to see that from Christ's perspective, everything He did for us was about us, not Himself.
 - 3) That is the model of how we should live—for others.
 - 4) No greater love is there than to lay down our lives for others, like Y'shua did (John 15:13).
- d) It's a reminder of how Y'shua was careful to refer to two areas of scripture when asked about the greatest commandment (Mat. 22:36).
 - 1) Love God! (Deuteronomy 6:4-7)
 - 2) Love your neighbor! (Leviticus 19:17-18)
- e) We also learn HOW to love others in the passage from Leviticus.
 - 1) Don't stand by and watch your neighbor sin and say NOTHING.
 - 2) Instead, you shall rebuke him and NOT put up with his sins.
 - 3) That is brotherly love at its best!

- 4) But you cannot be ready to correct someone else until: “*and **being in readiness** to avenge all disobedience **when your obedience is made full.***” 2 Corinthians 10:6 WEBUS
- 5) We must become the righteousness of God before we can be that for others: “*We are therefore ambassadors on behalf of Christ, as though God were entreating by us: we beg you on behalf of Christ, **be reconciled to God.** For him who knew no sin he made to be sin on our behalf, so **that in him we might become the righteousness of God.***” 2 Corinthians 5:20-21
WEBUS
- f) To prefer others...
 - 1) Let’s face it, there is no way to be crafted into the image of Christ, and let’s have no doubts, that is our calling, without first being able to switch positions; others first for me first.
 - 2) “*In love of the brothers be tenderly affectionate to one another; **in honor prefer one another,** not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord, rejoicing in hope, enduring in troubles, continuing steadfastly in prayer, contributing to*

*the needs of the saints, and **given to***

hospitality.” Romans 12:10-13 WEBUS

- 3) “If therefore ***there is any exhortation*** in Christ, if any ***consolation of love***, if any ***fellowship of the Spirit***, if any ***tender mercies and compassion***, ***make my joy full*** by being like-minded, ***having the same love***, being of one accord, of one mind; doing nothing through rivalry or through conceit, but in humility, ***each counting others better than himself; each of you not just looking to his own things, but each of you also to the things of others.***” Philippians 2:1-4

WEBUS

- 4) The type of servant to others we are called it becomes next in Philippians 2:5-11, a bondservant **willing to surrender his life for others!**
- g) How can any human possibly do “others first for me first”? By acknowledging you no longer own your life!
- 1) “*I have been crucified with Christ, and **it is no longer I who live**, but Christ lives in me. That life which I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the*

Son of God, who loved me and gave himself up for me.” Galatians 2:20 WEBUS

2) *“Or don’t you know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God? **You are not your own, for you were bought with a price.** Therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.”*

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 WEBUS

- h) When you know the heart of God; know what and how to do what He calls you to do; have the self-control and self-discipline to do what God has called you to do and refrain from what He calls you to say no to; no matter how long it takes or how hard it is; and you have become resolute to never give up; and you live your life in perfect alignment with God’s will in all facets of life, spirit, soul and body; and have arrived at the place where you can, with all honesty say, “My life is not my own; it’s all about others;” you are ready to tap the Divine Nature—LOVE!
- i) That is when God can use you as if you are literally speaking for Him!

a) *“We are therefore ambassadors on behalf of Christ, **as though God were entreating by us [pleading through us]: we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.**”* 2 Corinthians 5:20 WEBUS

7. # 7 **Love:** God is love (2 John 4:8, 16); it is His divine nature (2 Peter 1:4). And there is no fear in love, perfect love casts out fear (1 John 4:18). Love is the bond of perfection (Col. 3:14).

a) Peter tells us that we have the right to participate in the Divine Nature.

1) We can experience God in us (Col. 1:27).

2) We can have the mind of God and think like God (1. Cor. 2:16).

3) WE CAN LOVE LIKE GOD! *“We love Him because He first loved us.”* 1 John 4:19 NKJV

b) Love is the pinnacle of the discipleship model, the goal of the path to the divine nature.

1) It is the expression of **the full stature and image of Christ**, which is the ultimate goal and mandate for the existence of the church (Eph. 4:11-13).

- c) God's divine nature is love. And love is a many faceted diamond. But love is definitely not an emotion or feeling. It is a willful, on purpose decision.
- d) Love's all encompassing, uncompromisable description is best elaborated in I Corinthians 13:4-8.
 - 1) *[Paraphrase]* "Love is the standard by which every thought and action is measured. It is manifested altogether and simultaneously as patience, kindness, admiration, trust, modesty, humility, and meekness. It is gracious, polite, altruistic, peaceful, soothing, virtuous, joyful, righteous, and truthful. It displays fierce loyalty; believes, hopes, and endures all things; and always succeeds and thrives, no matter what. It will never fail you!"
 - 2) *"But now faith, hope, and love remain—these three. **The greatest of these is love.**"* 1 Corinthians 13:13 WEBUS
- e) If all attributes are not at work simultaneously, then it is not love.

(3) Summary

(a) Faith to God's Promises by way of Practice

1. Faith is a gift from God that came by way of God's grace. Faith must be practiced to gain continual access to that grace and that is done by adding to your faith these things: **{#1 VIRTUE}** Seek the Lord's will before all else and then fill in the information **{#2 KNOWLEDGE}** that is missing, before you act. Once you have the knowledge necessary, take wise and decisive action **{#3 SELF-CONTROL}**, being aware that at times it is God's will that you refrain from taking action. Recognize that along the way there will be challenges and temptations levied at you to test you, misdirect you, or humble you. Nevertheless, you must stay the course to fulfill God's desires **{#4 PERSEVERANCE}**, unless you have humbly come to the conclusion that you have made an error that must be corrected before you can continue. Under those conditions, it is wise to retrace your steps to find your error. It is best to reconsider if you missed God's voice first, and then proceed forward from there. This discipleship process must be applied to every area of life **{#5 GODLINESS}**. It's okay to be imperfect as you progress, as long as you continually pursue God's

will and make the appropriate corrections. That is what it means to live in the pursuit of godliness. And that is how a disciple becomes an effective minister—able to place others as a priority over oneself **{#6 BROTHERLY AFFECTION}**. One who does this in all areas of life at all times and for all others is a person emulating the love of God, or the nature of Christ, which is indeed the bond of perfection **{#7 LOVE}**. This process must be sought after and applied diligently, if one is to experience the fullness of God precious and exceedingly great promises, of which there are many, none greater than participation in God's Divine nature.

THIS IS WHAT YOU RECEIVE...

3. For this very reason...

A. Imperishable Winnings / Infinite & Imperishable Jackpot / Precious & Exceedingly Great Promises

- (1) Exceedingly Precious Promises
 - (a) Exceedingly: magnificent, great, large, mighty, abundant, in the widest sense.
 - (b) Precious: valuable, honorable, of great price, honored.
 - (c) Promises: a profession

(2) The Incorruptible Crown (14 promises)

(a) Promises #'s 1, 2, 3

1. “**Grace** to you and **peace** be multiplied in the **knowledge** of God and of Jesus our Lord,” 2 Peter 1:2

WEBUS

- a) **#1 Grace Multiplied:** God’s supernatural empowerment.
- b) **# 2 Peace Multiplied:** ease in the midst of anything.
- c) **# 3 Knowledge Multiplied:** understanding of the things of God.

(b) Promises #'s 4, 5, 6

1. “seeing that his **divine power** has granted to us **all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge** of him who called us by his own glory and virtue,” 2 Peter 1:3 WEBUS

- a) **# 4 Access to His divine power:** resurrection power.
- b) **# 5 All things that pertain to life:** all the needs of life.
- c) **#6 All things that pertain to godliness:** to live in holistic integrity (spirit, soul, and body).

(c) Promises #'s 7, 8, 9

1. “by which he has granted to us **his precious and exceedingly great promises**; that through these you may become **partakers of the divine nature**, having **escaped from the corruption** that is in the world by lust.” 2 Peter 1:4 WEBUS
 - a) **#7 Exceedingly great and precious promises:** they are more than you can imagine!
 - b) **# 8 Partakers of the divine nature:** Love is His nature!
 - c) **# 9 Escape the corruption that is in the world through lust:** The Gateway Sin
- (d) Promises #'s 10, 11
 1. “For if these things are yours and abound, they make you to **not be idle** or **unfruitful in the knowledge** of our Lord Jesus Christ.” 2 Peter 1:8 WEBUS
 - a) **# 10 You will be neither idle (barren, ineffective) in knowledge of the Lord:** that we might know the things that were freely given to us by God.
 - b) **# 11 Nor unfruitful (Productive) in knowledge of the Lord:** we are made to reap a harvest.
- (e) Promises #'s 12, 13

1. “Therefore, brothers, be more diligent to make your **calling and election sure**. For if you do these things, you will **never stumble**.” 2 Peter 1:10 WEBUS

a) **# 12 Make your call and election sure:** to become all God has called you to become.

b) **#13 You will never stumble:** promised protection.

(f) Promise # 14

1. “For thus you will be **richly supplied** with the **entrance into the eternal Kingdom** of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.” 2 Peter 1:11 WEBUS

a) **#14 Rich entrance into the everlasting kingdom:**
Called to Christlikeness!

(3) Remember, these promises are not guaranteed...

(a) For this very reason... (See [Faith Like Mine](#))

1. “Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who through the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ **have received a faith** as precious as ours:” 2 Peter 1:1 NIV

2. “But also **for this very reason**, giving all diligence, **add to your faith...**” II Peter 1:5 NKJV

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

- 1. Assignment: Read 2 Peter 1:1-11 ten times aloud.**
 - A. Answer the following questions drawing ONLY from these eleven verses.
 - B. Do not draw your answers from any other previous knowledge you may have from other areas of Scripture—even if those answers would otherwise be correct.
- 2. What is the foundation of everything and what is the only way to obtain it.**
 - A. Name it and define both types.
 - B. Once you have it, what are you meant to do with it?
 - C. What happens if you don't steward it correctly.
- 3. Name eight to fourteen exceedingly precious promises from God (depending on how you parse the verses).**
 - A. Define what each promise means.
- 4. Name the seven steps it takes to guarantee you experience God's promises.**
 - A. Describe and define each step.
 - B. Why must the steps be followed in a precise order?
 - C. Go step-by-step and describe what type of complications would arise if you skipped that step and went to the next prematurely.

5. Bonus

- A. What is the one thing that would prevent you from walking through the precise steps toward all of God's promises?
- B. How is that affecting your life right now?