

BRINGING IT HOME

Faith in Increasing Measure

In order to grow our faith, it's helpful to see where we are and make a plan to continue growing. Consider eight qualities listed by Peter and note where you are today (that might be: stuck, growing, not there at all, or not sure what it looks like) and then, note the action you can take to possess that quality "in increasing measure." It might help to refer back to the brainstorming you did on the Digging Deeper question 6.

Faith: I am currently _____

To Grow: _____

Goodness: I am currently _____

To Grow: _____

Knowledge: I am currently _____

To Grow: _____

Self-Control: I am currently _____

To Grow: _____

Perseverance: I am currently _____

To Grow: _____

Godliness: I am currently _____

To Grow: _____

Brotherly Kindness: I am currently _____

To Grow: _____

Love: I am currently _____

To Grow: _____

Now, write down one step you will take this week to put your plan into action.

SERMON NOTES

Ephesians 1:15-23

1. If you were to take your identity as a "saint" seriously, how does that change the way you live now?
2. How have you experienced the "power of prayer"?
3. Where is the "power of resurrection" needed in your life?

DIGGING DEEPER

In Ephesians 1:15-23, Paul prays that our eyes and heart will be open to the great gifts God has for us. In this passage, Peter provides guidance on how to live with our eyes and hearts open.

Read 2 Peter 1:3-11

1. What has God given us to live a godly life?
2. What promises to you think Peter is referring to in verse 4?
3. What do you think “the divine nature” means? How might we live in “the divine nature” and “escape the corruption” in our world today?
4. Describe what it means for you to “make every effort”. Why is this necessary?
5. Why do you think that Peter begins the list of qualities with faith?
6. Brainstorm specific ways that we can exhibit – or live into – each of the qualities Peter says we must add to our faith in verses 5 – 7.
7. Which of these qualities have you seen increase in your life? Which need to grow more?
8. How might you cultivate these qualities?
9. Each of the qualities builds on the previous one. What happens if we don’t continue to move from one to the next?
10. What do you think Peter means by making our “calling and election sure”? What is our reward?

LIFE CHECK

1. Where did you see God at work in your life this week? Consider the following questions as you think about God working in your spiritual, home, work and social life.

How were you blessed this week?

Did God prompt you to bless someone this week? How did they respond?

How has God answered prayer?

Did you seek God’s will and obey?

Did God speak to you through Scripture, a person, or in some other way? What happened?

How did God work in and through you to share your faith this week through words and/or actions?

2. What action might you take this week to draw closer to God and see Him at work in your life?

PRAY

O God, by whom the meek are guided in judgment, and light rises up in darkness for the godly: Grant us, in all our doubts and uncertainties, the grace to ask what you would have us to do, that the Spirit of wisdom may save us from all false choices, and that in Your light we may see light, and in Your straight path may not stumble; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BCP, p. 832