

Passage:

2 Peter 1:0

Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your calling and election sure, for if you do these things, you will never stumble.

Make your calling and election sure. This we do by:

1. Growing relationship with God (V-14)
2. Supplement your faith with 7 key traits (v5-11)

Last week, we covered point 1. Today, we shall run through point 2.

### **Supplement your faith with 7 key traits (v5-11)**

In a rock climbing, one would ensure that he is well supplemented with a lot of safety gears. There must be adequate preparation. What are some things that are needed to supplement our foundation of faith?

### **Giving all diligence, add to your faith.**

Adding supplements requires energy, time and intentionality. We do so with diligence. Daniel purposed not to be defiled. That requires intentionality.

### **Supplement your faith with 7 key traits (v5-11)**

2 Peter 1:5-7

<sup>5</sup>For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; <sup>6</sup>and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; <sup>7</sup>and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love.

### **1<sup>st</sup> Supplement: Goodness**

2 Peter 1:5a

<sup>5</sup>For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness;

Goodness is a virtue. It is moral excellence (arête).

In a sense, this is about a life of purity. It talks about making moral choices. As mentioned, Daniel purposed not to be defiled. In contrast, Samson despised his calling as a priest. In the end, he was brought down by Delilah. We need to pay attention to supplement our faith.

What sank the Titanic? The ship was an engineering feat. It was almost invincible until it hit an iceberg. How could an ice-berg bring it down? The captain only saw the tip but not the bottom of the ice-berg, which was a solid ice rock.

Character shows up in small little things. We should mean what we say and say what we mean. Examples are: Character is not taking what is not yours. It is leaving the place better than when you first used it. It is about politeness, honor, punctuality and submission. Having character means paying bills on time. Character is about portraying the image of Christ. Be faithful in little, be faithful in much. Character is developed over time.

How to develop moral excellence – character – integrity?

Proverbs 4:23

Keep your heart with diligence for out of it spring the issues of life.

Matthew 15:19

<sup>19</sup> For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies.

We need to guard our heart.

### **A. How do we guard our heart?**

Example 1:

When we deal with anger and bitterness in our hearts, we will not physically murder.

Example 2:

When we deal with lust, we will not commit adultery.

Example 3:

When we deal with covetousness, we will not steal.

We need to be responsible for what we put in the social media.

### **B. Do not live by our carnal-fleshly nature**

When we receive Christ, we still have the tension with the old man in us.

Romans 8:1-2

There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. <sup>2</sup> For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

Luke 9:23

<sup>23</sup> And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.

Put aside your right to revenge. Pick up your cross and follow the Lord. Treat them like your enemy – by loving them, you put coals on their heads.

### **C. Live the Christ-centred, Spirit-led life**

Galatians 2:20

<sup>20</sup> I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

We live the Christ-life by faith.

## **2nd Supplement: Knowledge**

2 Peter 1:5

<sup>5</sup> For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge;

Knowledge (gnosis) means correct insight.

We need to have knowledge of what is available in the market place. How to sow and multiply seeds? How to have bread? Ignorance is not bliss. The Bible calls it the commandments, the statutes and principles that have to do with life. The devil fears the believer when he is hungry for the Word of God. Guard the soil

of our heart. We need to guard against doubts sown by the whispers of the evil one. He will mock, condemn, compare, accuse and crush you.

Ignorance of God is not bliss. People are destroyed for lack of knowledge. (Hosea 4:6) Knowledge of God is the promised land. In Jesus, we will have peace because He overcame the world and it's our faith in God that overcomes the world. With God we are the majority.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Supplement: Self control**

2 Peter 1:5-6

<sup>5</sup> For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; <sup>6</sup> and to knowledge, self-control;

Self-control (egkrateia) means having self discipline; self-restraint and being temperate in all areas of life.

#### **A. Self control is a discipline we must develop.**

1Thessalonians 5:8

<sup>8</sup> But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.

We need to learn delayed self gratification. Adolescents and teenagers need to rein in their sexual gratification. We teach our youth not to go into a relationship when they are in Youth Church. In adulthood, there are problems with gambling. There is no delayed gratification because they want the money.

#### **B. Self-control will be a fruit from our relationship with God.**

Galatians 5:22-23

<sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, <sup>23</sup> Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

In 1 Corinthians 9, Paul disciplined his body so that he doesn't become a castaway. He runs to finish the race and to win the prize. This is unlike Solomon who fell as he had no self control.

### **4<sup>th</sup> Supplement: Perseverance**

2 Peter 1:5-6

<sup>5</sup> For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; <sup>6</sup> and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance;

Perseverance (hupomone) means bearing up or patient endurance under trials. Perseverance is keep on keeping on.

#### **A. We must persevere in faith to inherit God's promises.**

#### **B. Perseverance is a grace from God.**

Colossians 1:11

<sup>11</sup> Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;

An article by Francis Frangipane tells of Goliath having a brother. David brought with him five stones because there were more than one giant. To slay them require perseverance.

Think of a scenario. A person has been healed but some years later the sickness returns with a vengeance. It leaves the person struggling. However, it is not a loss of blessings. Rather, the person is entirely on a new spiritual battle. The devil is trying to worm his way in to get the person. The person is hit and he wonders why. However, like the stones David had, he should put on the armour of God and persevere. Perseverance becomes a grace when he prays. In order for God to give us this grace to endure, we need to pray and posture total dependency on God.

### **C. The fruit of perseverance will see us develop faith conviction in that area of our struggle.**

James 1:3-4

<sup>3</sup> Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. <sup>4</sup> But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

If the struggle is about an issue, don't fret. Learn to be calm, cool, collected and composed. Go with the FLOW (Flow of God). As we journey on, develop faith convictions, "I am always protected, provided..."

Romans 5:3-4

<sup>3</sup> And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; <sup>4</sup> And patience, experience; and experience, hope:

We always hope in God. He is the worthy one. He holds the key of death and hades. He is the worthy one. He is the one coming as King of kings and Lord of lords.

## **5<sup>th</sup> Supplement: Godliness**

Godliness (eusebeia) means God-fearing or piety or godly character out of devotion to God.

Godliness is the complete opposite of worldliness. 'World' is the pattern of thinking, the values of the world.

### **A. Godliness is to factor, consider God always in every response and decision.**

Psalm 1:2

But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night.

### **B. Godliness is great gain – profit now and forever**

1Timothy 4:8

For bodily exercise profits a little but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come.

To have God in our hearts; to have biblical values and to walk with people of God is great gain. Why are we spending two hours in a church service when we can be elsewhere? We are here because we are godly, wanting to hear the word and grow in our faith.

## **6<sup>th</sup> Supplement: Brotherly Kindness (Philadelphia)**

'Philadelphia' means kindness towards brethren.

### **A. Brotherless kindness is evidence that we are disciples of Christ.**

John 13:34-35

34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. 35 By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

## **B. Brotherly kindness is intentional towards people in our lives.**

1 John 4:20

If someone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?

1 Thessalonians 4:9-10

9 But concerning brotherly love you have no need that I should write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another; 10 and indeed you do so toward all the brethren who are in all Macedonia. But we urge you, brethren, that you increase more and more ...

We will be part of a larger network to provide eldercare services. BBTC will be a coordinating church.

## **7<sup>th</sup> Supplement: Love (Agape)**

‘Agape’ means the love of God

### **A. The source of love is from God.**

1 John 4:10, 16, 19

10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 16 And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him. 19 We love Him because He first loved us.

Matthew 24:10-12 (KJV)

Then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another .. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.

The love of God will turn cold when we are offended.

### **B. We must guard this love from turning cold.**

To be un-offendable, we must process the incident in a Christ-like manner i.e. according to the Word and Revelation of the Holy Spirit. One of the major reasons for offences is expectation. There are also expectations of God and some people are no longer in church because they didn't see God answering them the way they expected. The Syrian commander, Naaman, had his expectations of how he should be healed. He became very angry when the way he was told to be healed didn't line up with his expectations.

1 Corinthians 13 tells us what love is supposed to be.

1 Corinthians 13:4-8a

4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. 8 Love never fails.

### **Result of Spiritual Growth – Fruitfulness**

2 Peter 1:8

For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Keep on growing in moral excellence and character.

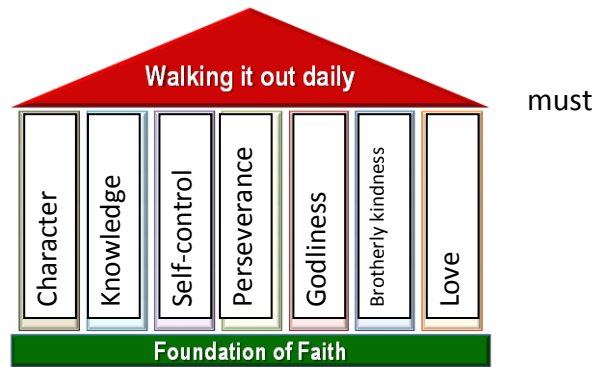
2 Peter 1:9

But whoever does not have them is short-sighted and blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their past sins. 10 Therefore, my brothers and sisters, make every effort to confirm your calling and election. For if you do these things, you will never stumble, 11 and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

To be short-sighted means you cannot see far. Blindness results as a consequence of falling away.

### 7 virtues

Walking it out daily. The 7 truths must be built on the foundations of faith. If our relationship with God is fractured, then whatever we do is on shaky ground. Why this be built on faith?



The 7 Virtues must flow out of our foundation of Faith.

- i. Character without faith stands on shaky ground.
- ii. Knowledge without faith is mere information.
- iii. Self-control without faith is straining unnecessarily.
- iv. Perseverance without faith is futile in the end.
- v. Godliness without faith is simply religion.
- vi. Brotherly Kindness without faith is self-serving.
- vii. Love without faith is ultimately natural and corrupt.

### Conclusion

Jude 1:24

24 Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy.

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### Questions for discussion

1. From 2 Peter 1:10, what are some practical aspects of being 'diligent'?

"Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your calling and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble."

2. In making our calling and election sure, we do so by:
  1. Growing relationship with God (V-14)
  2. Supplement your faith with 7 key traits (v5-11)

Discuss how one may supplement his faith with the 7 key traits. Are there some life-changing stories that you can share?

3. After these two sermons, do you have clear handles on how not to fall? Share some highlights/handles.

4. How are you factoring God actively into your journey of faith?  
Jude 1:24