

SECOND PETER CHAPTER 1
Lesson 6
NECESSARY ADDITIONS

12 September, 2014

HOW GODLINESS IS ACHIEVABLE FOR THE CHRISTIAN:

GOD'S PART:

- He gave us "**precious faith**" to believe in the Saviour (vs. 1).
- Upon salvation, He "**hath given unto us all things that pertain to life and godliness**" (vs. 3).
- He also has given us "**exceeding great and precious promises**" (vs. 4)
- He's enabled us to escape "**the corruption that is in the world through lust**" (vs. 4).

MAN'S PART:

- We are responsible to diligently "**add to**" (vs. 5) all the things that God freely gave us upon salvation.
- We are to add virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, and charity.
- We are to be productive (not barren) and "**fruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.**"
Note: This goes beyond an intellectual "knowledge."
You can know the facts, but still be spiritually sterile.

RESULT OF ADDING THESE THINGS:

- If you diligently "**do these things, ye shall never fall**" (vs. 10). You won't give up, mess up, backslide, and fall into sin.
- We'll have an abundant entrance into the "**everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ**" (vs. 11).
- We'll be bearing gold, silver and precious stones, instead of wood, hay, and stubble (1 Cor. 3:12). We'll have something to show for our Christian life.

RESULT OF NOT ADDING THESE THINGS:

- "**Barren,**" "**no fruit**" (vs. 8). No change in our life. We're the same as we were before salvation.
- "**Blind,**" living like Jesus never paid for your sins (vs. 9).
- You'll end up "**falling**" (vs. 10) once again into "**the corruption that is in the world**" (vs. 4).

CORRUPTION: depravity, immorality, perversion, wickedness, loss of purity, loss of integrity.

- Examples: Gossip, tale-bearing, division, discord among brethren, lying, cheating, stealing, self-righteousness.
- This is a "fall" FROM righteousness and from the high moral principles of Christianity.
- This is a "fall" INTO low moral principles found in the world.
- You are not "pushed" or "pulled" into it. You voluntarily "**fall**" back into the world's ways—when you don't diligently pursue the principles of spiritual growth listed in Second Peter chapter 1 and "**add**" them to your faith.
 - Three cross-references for the word "**corruption:**" 2 Kings 23:13, 2 Pet. 2:13, 19.

BARREN (vs. 8): *Not producing young or offspring; unfruitful; not fertile or producing little; unproductive.*

- Christians ought to be producing Christians through witnessing efforts.
- Your life ought to be influencing others to live right.
- You've got "good seed" (Mt. 13:18), the Word of God. It's your responsibility to prepare the ground (your heart) to "bring forth" "an hundredfold." Maximize your fruit! Obey 2 Peter 1:5.

BARREN: *Not producing the usual fruit.*

- The “usual” fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23) is Love, Joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, and temperance.
 - It should not be unusual for a Christian to exhibit these traits. It should be expected.
 - The only reason it seems unusual to people when they see a Christian bearing fruit is because most Christians they see are barren.
 - If you will obey the Bible’s command to “**add to your faith**” the things listed in verses 5-7, you won’t be “barren;” you won’t lack the usual fruit.

WHAT TO ADD:

VIRTUE: *Having a beneficial effect on others.*

Moral goodness. Moral excellence. Practicing moral duties simply because we love God.

KNOWLEDGE: We had the basic knowledge about Jesus that we needed to get saved. God wants us to go further than that through a consistent study of His Word. Learn the specifics of the sins that Jesus died for. Learn the depths of God’s love that brought Him to sacrifice His Son. Bible knowledge will help us to love others the way God loved us.

Knowledge will help us to serve God the right way. Don’t be an amateur forever. Make sure you can give a clear presentation of the Gospel.

TEMPERANCE: *Habitual moderation in regard to the indulgence of the natural appetites and passions.*

Now that you’re saved, there should be a difference in your ability to control yourself. Your old habits should be a thing of the past.

You should get to the point where you instinctively do the right thing regardless of your mood or the circumstances.

PATIENCE: Not getting angry when you’re detained or inconvenienced.

If you take your thoughts off of yourself, and consider others, you’ll do well.

GODLINESS: To try to think and act the way God would in every situation.

BROTHERLY KINDNESS: the kindness that a brother has toward a brother.

CHARITY: Greater than kindness. Greater than love. This term is used between Christian brethren.

All these things need to “**be in you, and abound**” (vs. 8) if we are going to produce spiritual fruit in our Christian lives.