

Seven Habits of Highly Successful Christians

(Adding)

2 Peter 1:1-11

This is a clear program for spiritual exercise for the rest of your life.

The noted A.B. Simpson said, "There is no single paragraph in Scripture that more profoundly unfolds the depths and heights of the Christian life than the first eleven verses of Second Peter."

A look at how the passage sets up:

Vs. 1-4 The quality and provision of our salvation.

Vs. 5-7 Things to be added

Vs. 8-11 Benefits of adding – and the consequences of not adding

I. Let's begin at the end: -1- v.8. Having these qualities increases your usefulness and fruitfulness.

Never be without something to do for the Lord.

Never cease to bear fruit in your life

2- V.9 It increases your spiritual vision:

You won't forget where you came from. Folks who have "added" grow in appreciation of grace. The Israelites never got it.

3- v. 10 How to end well: "Keep you from falling". If you fall; you've not been "adding."

4- v. 11 Provides an abundant entrance into the kingdom. Note "minister"

Stability, Usefulness, Productivity

II Look at what those who are asked to ADD already have. V.1-4 (The Qualities of our full salvation)

v.1 Faith like the apostles v.2 Multiplied grace and peace v.3 You have it all by his supernatural power.

v. 4 "partakers of the divine nature >having escaped [to flee away] the "corruption "

"Old nature: do nothing right...New nature: do nothing wrong...{Which ever you feed most increases.}

III V5-7 Here are the Seven Qualities You Need to make a Habit of to Grow.

v.5 A growing Christian is always adding...ADD: acquire the habit of.

1. Virtue: good, and manly, courageous deeds. Let your faith show – move you.

What are we doing that is an expression only of our faith? Believe>Behave

2. Knowledge – gives you confidence, consistency, comfort.

Don't be blindsided by the enemy – Adam and Eve were. The devil doesn't invite scrutiny!

Get to know how God is – how He works etc.

“rains on just and unjust” – You are not exempt from temptation.

**The lad who lost his faith reading Bishop Spong's book.

So read, study things that increase desirable and needed knowledge. [2Cor 10:5 as well]

3. Temperance or self control – (Solomon didn't do this)

“Self” is always seeking to impose itself upon motives

Don't expect “spiritual auto pilot” - Be intentional. Best self control is Spirit control!

4. Patience: You'll get tired, but wait to quit. Learn how to put up with things.

This is the axis of spiritual growth – It enables you to go on through things – or let them pass over. It is active “tenacity” and waiting.

5. Godliness: attributes and acts of God and purity: Literally “to be devout”

Seek to add His mindset to life's issues and relationships.

Jesus is the ultimate expression of this...[So WWJD is still revelent]

*Me and sadness at the little group of hippies who came for help in the 70's....One of the girls was irritated with me for my tears.

6. Brotherly kindness: Love in the Christian family. The pure hearted, Godly ones can sometimes feel and act detached.

Stay tender, compassionate, and responsive.

**My friend Dick Randall and the man with the cigarettes....

7. Charity, i.e. “Agape” love....love beyond the “in crowd”.

**My pastor friend Joe Green in Savannah who began to weep as he witnessed to a man. His love broke down the spiritual opposition in the man who prayed to receive Christ.

A prayer for “adding”

Lord, I thank you for all you have done and are doing for me. You have been so gracious to me. So Lord I’m going to make it my business to be diligent in “adding.”

I purpose to add **virtue** – Let me do a courageous, faith prompted deed today.

I will seek to add **knowledge**: learn something fresh about you and life today.

I recognize my need to add **self-control** because self is always putting itself forward. I commit to make a habit of holding self down and yielding to you.

I don’t want to give out, give up, or quit, Lord, so help me add **patience**.

And to my patience, which often is deficient, I wish and seek to add **godliness** – a devoutness and characteristic of Jesus our Lord;

And the kind and helpful grace of **brotherly kindness** I want to always express.

And then Lord, may I through the Holy Spirit, whom you give to every believer – genuinely **love** [with *agape* love] people – sinners of the “worst” and “best” kind.

Father, I want these graces – habits, to grow until that day I stand in your visible presence. In Jesus name.