



diligently waiting

Practice Your Faith Diligently

2 Peter 1:3-15

Main Point: Remember to practice your faith diligently.

In Jesus Christ, you have all you need for life and godliness, so practice your faith diligently (3-9).

- *Grow in virtue (5).*
- *Grow in knowledge (5).*
- *Grow in self-control (6).*
- *Grow in steadfastness (6).*
- *Grow in godliness (6).*
- *Grow in brotherly affection (7).*
- *Grow in love (7).*

Peter reminded believers of the incredible gift God gave them through Christ. The Lord granted to each believer “all things pertaining to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence!” Believer, remember that “all things” means all things! You lack nothing that you need for this life, and you have everything you need in Christ to grow in godliness to live more like Jesus in this life. What a wonderful promise! Through the new life we’re given in Jesus, we are no longer slaves to our sinful desires, but we can live for God. Given this amazing truth, Peter reminded the believers of the qualities that God made available to them through Christ. These qualities are theirs to practice and to grow in their lives. From virtue or excellence in their thoughts, attitudes, and actions to love in their hearts, motivating their worship, words, and deeds, believers should diligently practice these qualities in order to continually grow these qualities in their lives. For a believer to neglect these qualities in his/her life would be acting as if they are blind, forgetting all that they’ve received in the forgiveness of their sin through the gift of God’s grace in Christ Jesus.

1. Use the interlinear tool on www.blueletterbible.org to study each of the qualities listed in verses 5-7. Read the range of definitions and discuss the practical meaning of these words or qualities.
2. Share testimonies of how God’s grown you in these qualities in your life. How has your growth in godliness helped you in life?
3. What quality do you need to grow in right now in your life? Share, and pray.

Practicing your faith diligently doesn’t earn salvation (10-11).

- *It confirms your calling and election (10).*
- *It protects and preserves your faith (10).*
- *It brings eternal reward in God’s Kingdom (11).*

Peter exhorted believers to practice their faith diligently, reminding them of the practical results of doing so. Some may argue that Peter seems to imply that practicing your faith diligently earns your salvation, but that's not only inconsistent with the rest of Scripture but also inconsistent with the context of Peter's own words in these verses. Practicing your faith diligently doesn't earn salvation, but Peter clearly pointed to several things that do result from practicing your faith diligently. First, practicing your faith diligently confirms your calling and election. God said that none are righteous and no one seeks for God (Rom. 3:10-11). All have sinned and fall short of his glory (Rom. 3:23). Believers are believers because God sought after them. In his mercy, God pursues sinners. He convicts them of sin, and he opens their darkened hearts and minds to the truth of his grace in Jesus Christ. He chooses them and calls them to come to Jesus (Jn. 6:37-47). Practicing your faith diligently confirms the reality of your faith. As you grow in Christ, your calling and election are confirmed in your own heart. As you live for Christ, others see the reality of the faith in your heart that they can't see with their eyes. Second, practicing your faith diligently protects and preserves your faith. As you practice your faith, the Lord uses that not only to confirm your faith but also to protect and to preserve your faith. God grows you in godliness as you live by faith, and God keeps you from falling away from your faith. Finally, Peter gave a forward looking promise connected to practicing your faith today: An entrance into heaven will be richly provided. This isn't saying that our works get us into heaven; rather, it's saying that there is reward for the faithful servant of God in heaven. What an encouragement to set our hope and find our perseverance in the promise of our reward in heaven for practicing our faith diligently on earth!

1. In your own life, how has God confirmed your calling and election as you've practiced your faith? How has he grown the assurance of your faith in your heart?
2. How have you seen God protect and preserve your faith? Have you ever had times of running away and had God pull you back to himself? Share testimonies.
3. Discuss the richness of entering God's eternal kingdom. How does that bring hope today? How does the promise of eternal reward encourage faithfulness today?

Practicing your faith diligently is protected by diligent reminders from God's Word (12-15).

Peter said that he intended to always remind believers about these things. He said that as long as he was alive he wanted to stir up believers to practice their faith diligently, reminding them about what it looks like and why it's important to practice their faith diligently. Peter knew that his time on earth was coming to an end, and he wanted his final words to be words that would continue to help believers remember the importance of practicing their faith diligently. Today, the need to be reminded is more important than ever. There are more voices speaking more information into the hearts and minds of people than ever before. What an important reminder of the importance of the church. God's gift of elders who preach and teach the Word, reminding God's people weekly about what he has said and calling on God's people to practice their faith diligently. We need to be reminded. We need to be stirred up because there's nothing easy about practicing your faith diligently in the world today. Praise God for the divine power of God that grants us all things that we need for life and godliness!

1. Who in the church continues to remind you to practice your faith diligently according to God's Word? Take time to share their names and how they provide reminders. Thank God for the gift of elders, teachers, and spiritual parents and brothers and sisters who remind us and stir us up to practice our faith.
2. Does God want to use you to remind someone of his truth and his call? Who are they? How can you share this lesson with them in order to remind them to practice their faith diligently? Will you?