

Who's Feeding You?

All too often it seems as if we are stuck in our faith journey.

A mistake we make in the beginning of our faith walk.

2 Peter 1:2-4 *Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.*

³ *His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.* ⁴ *Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.*

God has given us the gift of salvation.

When we come to Christ, God expects our lives to be different.

A lot of us have made the mistake of low expectations.

A mistake we make in the middle of our faith walk.

2 Peter 1:5-9 *For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; ⁶ and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; ⁷ and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. 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. ⁹ But whoever does not have them is nearsighted and blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their past sins.*

The Faith *plus* List

- Goodness: Moral excellence.
- Knowledge: God's will revealed to us in God's word.
- Self-Control: Saying no to excesses and to temptation.
- Perseverance: Continuing obedience in the face of pressure.
- Godliness: A practical awareness of God in every aspect of life.
- Brotherly kindness: Warm concern for others.
- Love: Self-sacrificing action on behalf of others.

A Key Mistake. We want Christian maturity to be a free gift too.

Three key words in verse 5...make every effort.

Growth in the faith life is hard work.

The Woody Allen Fallacy

“80% of success in life is just showing up.”

Success in the faith life is not just showing up; there is some sweat equity involved!

The Challenge

Take responsibility for your spiritual life.

Become a self-feeder.

Develop a personal plan for spiritual growth.

So What?

There is no excuse.

I will be responsible for me.

Scripture from New International Version
John Bray, June 4 & 5, 2011

Want to hear this again?

The sermon is posted on the church web site by Monday evening.

www.heritageqc.com Hit “**Watch sermon on-line**”

For Further Consideration: Resources for Reflection & Growth

Think about a time when you seemed “stuck” on your spiritual journey. What were the factors that got you stuck? What helped you get unstuck?

Read 2 Peter 1:2-4

What has God given us?

What seem to be his expectations for us?

Background study

When it comes to getting saved, what is God’s part and what is our part?

Ephesians 2:8-9; John 1:12-13

What do the following scripture reveal about God’s expectations for us *after* we are saved? What is his part? What is our part?

Read 2 Peter 1:5-9

In verse 5, the word “add” is translated from a Greek word that described making “lavish provision” for something...making sure there would be no shortages.

Don’t rush through this section.

Look at the “faith plus” list on page one of the note guide.

-On which of these do you sense the need to focus?

-In which of them have you seen growth in your life?

-What is getting in the way of “lavish” development of these in your life?

John said that one mistake we make is thinking maturity should be a “free gift” like salvation is.

-When you read “make every effort” (verse 5) how would you compare your performance to God’s command?

-What can you learn about God’s part and your part of maturing from the following scripture?

John 15:5-8; Philippians 2:12-13; Philippians 3:10-14

John challenged us to “take responsibility for our spiritual growth.” He said, “If you are not developing your own spiritual life it is not someone else’s fault.”

What do you think he meant by that?

What two things do you think you could do which would improve your spiritual growth trajectory?

We introduced the Monvee system this week. Every person who takes it will end up with a personalized road map for spiritual development. You are personally responsible for your growth. How could partnership with someone else (one to one or in a small group) help you keep your feet on the path? What might that partnership look like?