



(Come up in athletic attire and blow a whistle) “Let’s run it again, and this time with some energy!”

- Many of us have been coached at some level, and we know that there’s often mumbling in the locker room.**
- Workouts can be so brutal and exhausting.**

TR: We might even be tempted to . . .



. . . be like the kid in the NFL Store commercial . . . just buy a jersey and call it good.

-- Why go through all that players, like Drew Brees, have to go through to wear the jersey?! Just look the part.

TR: That temptation, to mumble in the locker room and find an easier way, is sort of what the Apostle Peter addresses in his second letter.

**Simeon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained a faith of equal standing with ours by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:
²May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.**

ESV

READ SLIDE

- Simeon Peter, is a player-coach.**
- He realizes that the ground is level at the foot of the cross.**
- Yet, he takes up his coach's whistle and challenges the believers across Asia Minor.**
- He greets them with his hope for them . . . to see grace and peace MULTIPLIED in the KNOWLEDGE of God and Jesus.**
- Note: the end of verse 1 is one of the passages in the NT that makes clear Jesus Christ is God and Savior.**

TR: Going through verses 3-15, we hear four strong whistle blasts that interrupt our locker room grumbling about having to do another workout.

“You’ve got what it takes!”



But, the first whistle blast isn't a reprimand or reaming out . . . it is a strong affirmation . . . READ SLIDE

TR: As you and I face the temptation to become Christian couch potatoes, armchair quarterbacks, Pringles-sucking slackers, we need the encouragement of knowing . . .

“You’ve got what it takes!”

*because God our Savior, Jesus,
has granted us the resources we
need.*

READ SLIDE

-- Sometimes we murmur and complain in the locker room, because we really don’t think we can push through it again.

TR: But our God and Savior, Jesus, has given us the resources we need through His . . .

“You’ve got what it takes!”

*because God our Savior, Jesus,
has granted us the resources we
need.*

- Divine power

. . . divine power.

TR: Look at 2 Peter 1:3 . . .

His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence,

ESV

READ SLIDE

- Through knowing Jesus, we have been granted **ALL THINGS** that pertain to life and godliness.
- **We've got what it takes!**
- If we're feeling like we are spent, that the tank is empty, the well is dry, the battery is dead . . . then we need this wonderful assurance.
- Through Christ I have available **ALL** I need for life and godliness!!!
- As someone said, "The grace of God will not take us where the grace of God cannot keep us."

TR: Jesus, who called us to his own glory and excellence, also

has given us the resources of . . .

“You’ve got what it takes!”

*because God our Savior, Jesus,
has granted us the resources we
need.*

- Divine power

- Divine promises

. . . His divine promises.

TR: Verse 4 . . .

by which he has granted to us his precious and very great **promises**, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.

ESV

**(end of verse 3) who called us to his own glory and excellence
... READ SLIDE**

-- God promises, His precious and very great promises, have been granted to us by God's own glory and excellence.

TR: And verse 4 makes clear that we, as a result of these promises, have the resource of ...

“You’ve got what it takes!”

*because God our Savior, Jesus,
has granted us the resources we
need.*

- *Divine power*
- *Divine promises*
- *Divine nature*

. . . becoming partakers of the divine nature.

TR: Back to verse 4

by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may **become partakers of the divine nature**, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.

ESV

Instead of being subject to the corruption in the world because of sinful desire, we become more and more like God.
-- We don't become God, but we more perfectly reflect His character and communicable attributes.
-- As Paul writes the Ephesians, "the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all," and "that we may be filled with all the fullness of God."
-- We can, empowered by the knowledge of Christ, grow to "the full stature of the measure of Christ."

TR: We've got what it takes, but . . .



. . . it would be wrong to imagine that because of God's lavish resources granted to us, that we therefore should take the posture of one born with a silver spoon in their mouth.

TR: The second blast of the whistle certainly snaps us out of that strange thinking. Coach tells us, in no uncertain terms, that . . .

“You’ve got to put in the work!”



. . . “You’ve got what it takes, but it will take everything you’ve got.” . . . READ SLIDE

TR: We’ve got to stop grumbling about another workout and jump up and put in the work . . .

“You’ve got to put in the work!”

*because God has given us the
responsibility to keep growing.*

. . . because . . . **READ SLIDE**

-- the **RESOURCES** have been granted to us as gifts . . .

-- but, that doesn’t mean we don’t need to **MAKE EVERY EFFORT.**

TR: Look with me at verses 5-7

For this very reason, **make every effort** to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, ⁶and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, ⁷and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love.

ESV

READ SLIDE

-- [For this very reason] = because of the resources given to us

-- . . . we make every effort.

-- The Bible doesn't seem to have a problem with the tension between God's sovereign power and our real responsibility to act.

-- We are to supplement or add to our faith. Becoming a Christian is as easy as trusting Christ for what He has done.

-- But, the Lord has no desire that we stop there.

TR: There is a staircase of qualities that we are to pursue . . .

“You’ve got to put in the work!”

*because God has given us the
responsibility to keep growing.*

*Faith → virtue → knowledge →
self-control → endurance →
godliness → brotherly affection
→ love.*

. . . not that these are in some specific order, but rather that they present steps on an ever-upward journey.

TR: We can explore these steps, using the questions I wrote for us on the back inside cover of the worship flier . . . connected by the arrow in our sermon notes.

VIRTUE: *Do my morals connect to my faith?*

KNOWLEDGE: *Do my decisions reflect the revealed will of God?*

SELF-CONTROL: *Do I see how temptations to self-indulgence as near-sighted?*

ENDURANCE: *Do I press on, even when progress seems to "take forever"?*

GODLINESS: *Is my knowledge of God reflected in my practical, everyday life?*

BROTHERLY AFFECTION: *Do I have a warmth of affection for others, even when they are different from me?*

LOVE: *Do I consider the path of self-sacrifice often, counting it a privilege to give of myself, like Jesus did?*

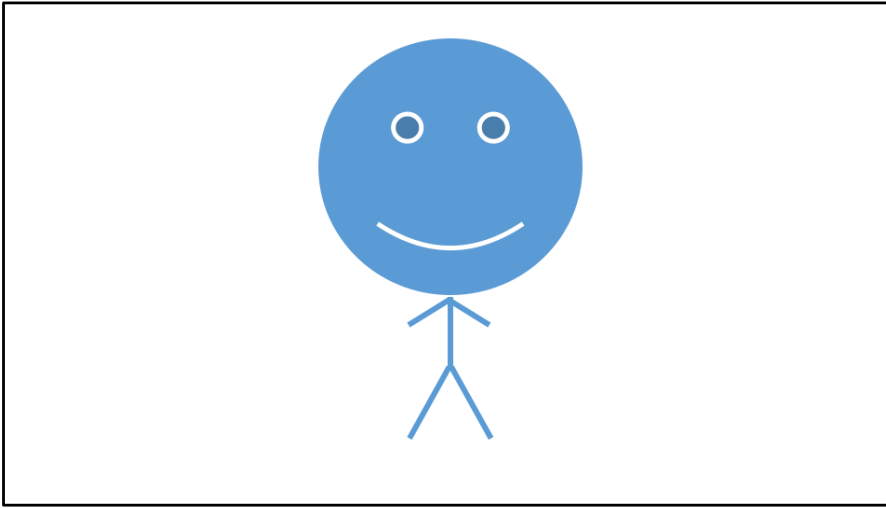
To faith we add VIRTUE . . . READ SLIDE . . . this is about my life reflecting my faith. Like James said, show we your faith by your works. It could be translated, "MORAL EXCELLENCE."

-- We must make every effort to take this knowledge we have of God through faith and then work it out into our daily ethics.

-- We must work out our salvation with fear and trembling for it is God who is at work in us, as Paul writes the Philippians.

-- The list continues . . . KNOWLEDGE . . . READ SLIDE (continue through entire slide, notice crescendo of focus on relationships)

TR: What Peter is blowing the whistle on is the common problem among Christians . . .



. . . big head syndrome.

- We want to grow in our knowledge, but we are tempted to do so without the practical exercise of those truths in our daily decisions, choices, and relationships.**
- We take in the calories of knowledge, but without the exercise of these qualities of application, we end up fat heads.**
- We want to know all sorts of details about the Bible that are interesting to us, but we don't apply the clear teachings right in front of us.**
- We want to hear the cheerleaders say, "You've got what it takes," but close our ears to the coach telling us to get our tails in gear . . . make every effort.**

TR: Peter, led by the Spirit, is a great coach. After such a strong challenge, he gives us encouragement . . . calling us to lift our

heads in the midst of the fatigue and . . .

“Keep your eye on the prize!”



. . . READ SLIDE

TR: Lifting our heads will also mean . . .

“Keep your eye on the prize!”
and also heed the failures of others, because God has determined that results matter.

. . . that we see the failures of others who have fallen by the wayside.

-- So, seeing both the outcomes of failure and success, we press on “because God has determined that RESULTS matter.

-- We realize that, for many, their TOMBSTONE IS MERELY A “PARTICIPATION TROPHY.”

-- Even if they’ve come to faith in Christ, they lived like the results of their lives didn’t matter.

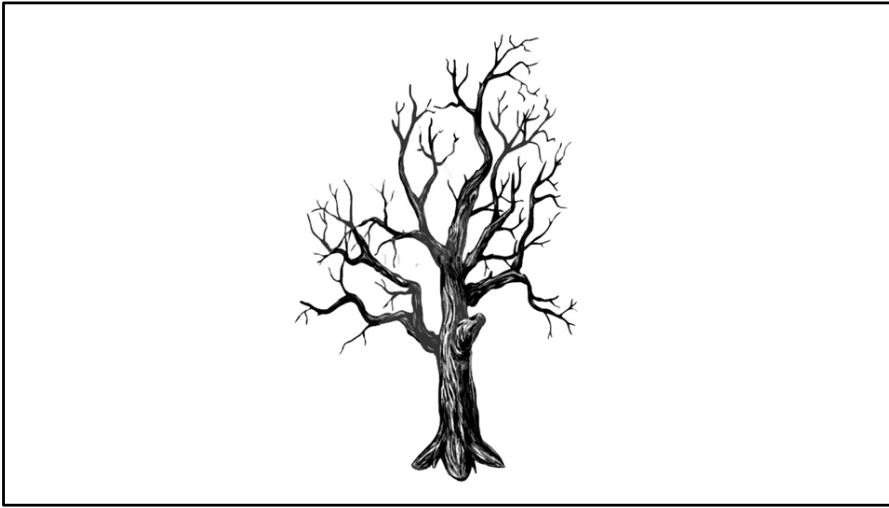
TR: Peter’s challenge here begins with an ugly picture . . .

“Keep your eye on the prize!”
*and also heed the failures of
others, because God has
determined that results matter.*
- Ineffective, unfruitful knowledge

. . . of ineffective and unfruitful knowledge.

-- Verses 2 and 3 both mentioned the knowledge of God, and the staircase of qualities emphasized putting that knowledge into action.

TR: But, here, the horror the coach mentions, is the image of a life lived that ends up looking like this . . .



. . . nothing but an empty, dry stump.

TR: Let's read verses 8-9

For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being **ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge** of our Lord Jesus Christ.
9For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins.

ESV

READ SLIDE

-- The staircase of qualities is really more like an escalator that keeps coming . . . allow us to keep on being effective and fruitful.

-- If we won't make every effort to supplement our faith with these qualities, then we are so nearsighted that we are blind.
-- We can't see into our past and remember that we were cleansed from our former sins when we trusted Christ.

TR: And we are too nearsighted to look to the future and . . .

“Keep your eye on the prize!”

and also heed the failures of others, because God has determined that results matter.

- Ineffective, unfruitful knowledge*
- Making our election sure / keeping us from falling*

READ SLIDE

TR: Verse 10

Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to **confirm your calling and election**, for if you practice these qualities **you will never fall**.

ESV

READ SLIDE

- God, in His sovereignty, freely calls us and elects us . . . but just like we saw, between the first and second whistle blasts, we must **CONFIRM** this by **MAKING EVERY EFFORT** . . .
- . . . practicing these qualities.
- We must see into the future and see our calling and election confirmed.
- **AND** we must look around, as we keep our eye on the prize, and heed the failures of others . . . others who have fallen away from the faith.

TR: It is a debate on whether one can turn away from true saving faith or whether one who appears as an apostate is

**just manifesting that they never were really saved . . . but
the Bible is clear that we must . . .**



READ SLIDE

- Some will say that we lost our salvation, others will say we never had it.
- Both will agree, that the true saints are those who persevere.
- EX: man who affirmed a particularly short sermon . . . preferred 5 minute homilies . . . but then left his wife.

TR: Results matter. God wants us to manifest the results of fruitful, effective knowledge that makes our election sure and will keep us from falling. And it . . .

“Keep your eye on the prize!”

and also heed the failures of others, because God has determined that results matter.

- Ineffective, unfruitful knowledge*
- Making our election sure / keeping us from falling*
- Ensuring a glorious entrance to Christ's kingdom*

READ SLIDE

-- We all will enter the kingdom on the merits of Jesus . . . but what kind of entrance we receive is also tied to our making every effort to practice these qualities with diligence.

TR: Verse 11

For in this way there will be **richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom** of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

ESV

READ SLIDE

- Our diligent practice, making every effort, based on the resources Jesus has granted . . .
- . . . that is what will make a way for a richly provided for entrance.
- The implication is that some may make it in, but there will be no fanfare, no red carpet, and blowing of trumpets, so to speak.
- Looking to the prize of entering Jesus' eternal kingdom, receiving the ticker tape parade of welcome, we are to press on and make every effort.
- In the NT, eschatology always moves into ethics (Osborne).

-- Review: You've got what it takes! You've got to put in the work! Keep your eye on the prize!

TR: There's one last whistle blast, after which the coach's voice drops to a quiet voice and says . . .

“As coach, I will make every effort!”



READ SLIDE

- Peter addresses those whose faith is of equal standing.
- Yes, he has the whistle . . . but, he's not asking of the team what he himself will not do.

TR: Specifically, as the coach, he will make every effort . . .

“As coach, I will make every effort!”

*because God has given me
the job to remind you until
you “get it.”*

READ SLIDE

-- Resources. Responsibility. Results. Reminders.

TR: Peter, and I today, remind us that . . .

“As coach, I will make every effort!”

*because God has given me
the job to remind you until
you “get it.”*

- Orthodoxy → Orthopraxy

READ SLIDE

- To separate right worship, or right belief, from right living is what is foundationally wrong with Gnosticism and all of its cousins.
- To say we are Gospel Fluent because we know the data points of the Gospel, and yet we haven't allowed these truths to INfluence us, is to be a slacker.
- EX: Getting away with hiding in the bathroom rather than running the laps . . . we imagine that no one sees but really we end up being a dry sprig of a tree.
- The coach says, “I'm here to remind you that orthodoxy must lead to orthopraxy.”

TR: Look at verse 12

Therefore I intend always to **remind you** of these qualities, though you know them and are established in the truth that you have.

ESV

READ SLIDE

-- [therefore] because making every effort at these qualities will make for a rich entrance into Christ's kingdom . . . I intend always to remind you.

-- EX: Man who left our congregation because he thought I should "only blow the whistle once" (focus on the resources provided). The second and even third whistle blasts led to locker room grumbling and complaining.

-- Peter is NOT saying that this is new information . . . even as most sermons are not new information. He's not saying they are baby Christians.

TR: I agree with coach Peter . . . I will remind you until you

“get it.” Why? Because we . . .

“As coach, I will make every effort!”

*because God has given me
the job to remind you until
you “get it.”*

- *Orthodoxy → Orthopraxy*
- *We always need stirring up*

READ SLIDE

- Sometimes people grow tired of a teacher. EX: I’ve learned all I can from Gary.
- Sometimes we imagine that we’ve already read the Bible through enough times or studied it well enough.

TR: Peter’s vision is different . . . verse 13

I think it right, as long as I am in this body, **to stir you up by way of reminder,** ¹⁴since I know that the putting off of my body will be soon, as our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to me.

ESV

READ SLIDE

-- The word translated “earthly body” is literally “tent” or “tabernacle.”

-- Perhaps God had given Peter another revelation, OR perhaps this is referring to what Jesus said to Peter as recorded at the end of John’s gospel (21:18) . . .

-- . . . *“Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you used to dress yourself and walk wherever you wanted, but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go.”*

-- But, as long as Peter still was in his physical body, he would stir the followers up by way of reminder.

- He didn't mind being accused of repetition.**
- He won't let us slip into the thinking, "Once an athlete, always an athlete." "I was "in shape" once, so I'm always still mostly in shape."**
- Peter gives us the example of running the race right up to the finish line . . . to the putting off of our body, becoming absent from the body but present with the Lord.**
- "As long as I have this tent . . . I'm going to have tent meetings for Jesus."**

TR: His goal was for them to be able to have . . .

“As coach, I will make every effort!”

*because God has given me
the job to remind you until
you “get it.”*

- *Orthodoxy → Orthopraxy*
- *We always need stirring up*
- *The goal is instant recall*

. . . instant recall.

TR: Verse 16

And I will make every effort so that after my departure you may be **able at any time to recall these things.**

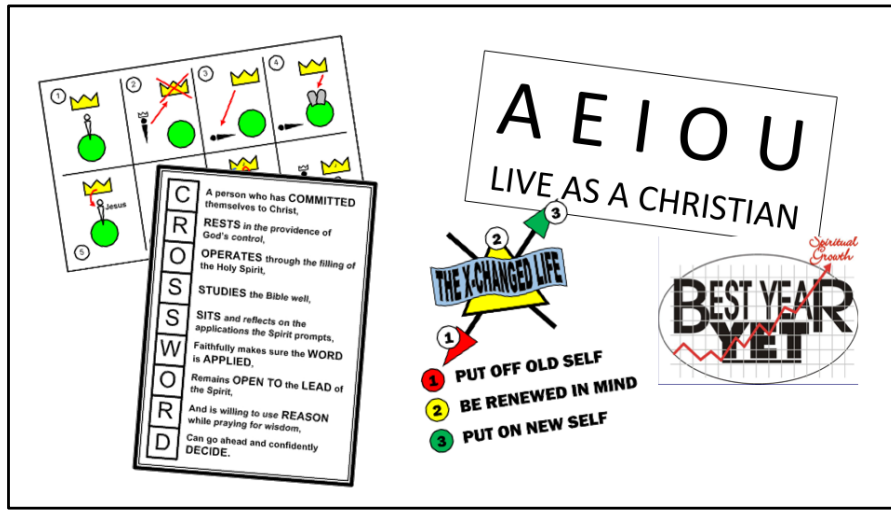
ESV

READ SLIDE

- The second whistle blast preceded the call to “Make every effort” . . . to “Put in the work!”
- Now, Peter challenges all teachers, whether pastors or in youth clubs or in Trinity Kids . . . make every effort.
- And it takes effort to help people learn.

- We live in a time when many want the jersey of being a Christ-follower, but they think coming to practice is optional. If they come 2/7 times, that’s fine.
- If they show up late, who cares. “You should be glad that I’m here at all.”

TR: It is interesting to see how people respond to some of the recall tools I've developed over the years.



Whether the 8 Simple Drawings, the AEIOU, the Crossword of Decision Making, The X-changed Life, The Best Year Yet, to mention a few of them . . .

-- those who have been around for a while sometimes struggle to hear it AGAIN . . . we want something NEW.

TR: I have sometimes witnessed a very scary thing when we review some of these basic tools . . .

DID I JUST ROLL MY EYES OUT

. . . a person rolls their eyes.

- Rolling your eyes is a sign of contempt. Even “micro-rolls” are a great indicator of the future of the relationship,**
- for the corruption of contempt, as evidence of the loss of the judgment of charity, spells doom in the future.**
- Even now, some of you may be rolling your eyes at the mention of the judgment of charity . . . “Just let it go, Gary!”**
- BUT then I ask them to please go to the whiteboard and draw and explain the tool that they hold in contempt because it is so simplistic . . .**
- . . . and almost never can they do so without help from me or the group in the room.**
- We need the reminder that we need knowledge . . . applied.**

TR: The speech is not before a big game when the adrenalin is

pumping. It is not the FSU-Grand Valley speech. It is not the Michigan-Ohio State speech. It is not when there are hoards of fans and a band playing. It is a speech given on an ordinary, cold, drizzily day before another daily workout

...

“You’ve got what it takes!”

“You’ve got to put in the work!”

“Keep your eye on the prize.”

“As coach, I will make every effort!”

. . . the whistle blows and the coach says . . . READ SLIDE

“You’ve got what it takes!” - RESOURCES

“You’ve got to put in the work!” - RESPONSIBILITY

“Keep your eye on the prize.” - RESULTS

“As coach, I will make every effort!” – REMINDER because I want you to have a glorious entrance to the eternal kingdom of our Lord Jesus.