

1. The call to supplement our Profession of Faith with seven qualities - how important is to add these?



8 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. 9 For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. 10 Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. 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.

2. The first quality to add to our Faith: **Virtue.**

5 For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, When a person desires to please the Master with their life, they will do it by obeying, following, putting off old, putting on the new, aligning one's self with the will of God - listening to God and following. Progressive growth but based on an inner transformation - attitude - resolve: **I want to please my King, my Savior, My God, with all of my life.**

3. The second supplement: Add to our Faith & Virtue:

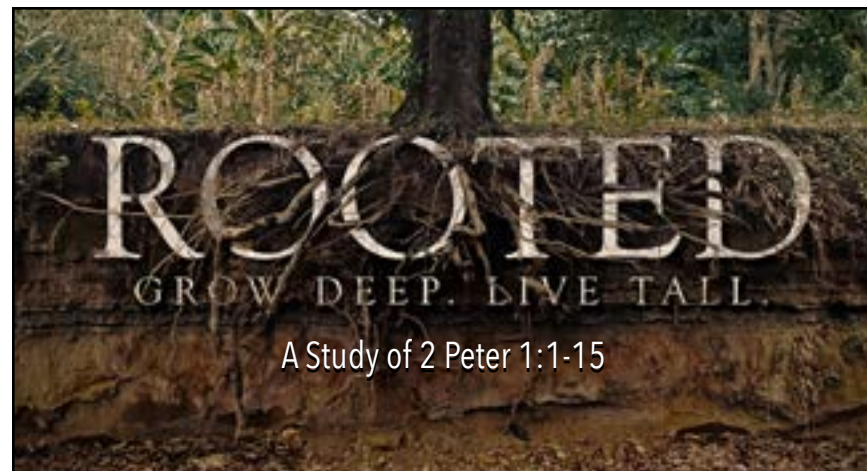
Knowledge (of God)

If you want more knowledge of what God's will for your life is, how he wants you to live in a way that pleases him, there are multiple lists of commands, and lists of ungodly vs. godly behaviors you can easily find. One of the great blessings of studying God's word is that it get's into you and is a reminder in your mind and heart about what God wants in life situations. **I want to Know my King and His ways, so that I can better please Him.**

4. The R_____ for faithfulness are amazing.

Matt. 25:21b You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.

2 Peter 1:10-11 Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. 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.



Matt. 25:14-33 **it will be like:** Matthew 25 contains two parables on the same theme - the delay of Christ's return. "For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. The first parable is a story about a wedding procession. Ten girls are torch-bearers in the celebration. Five come prepared for a delay in the groom's processional by bringing extra fuel for their torches. The other five are unprepared for the delay, are labeled foolish and are eventually excluded from the party by the Groom. ¹⁵ To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶ He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. ¹⁷ So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. ¹⁸ But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. **talents... to each according to his ability:** A talent was the largest weight measurement of that time. These are large sums of money, possibly as much as a life-time of wages for a common laborer. The five, two and one talent quantities of wealth were "entrusted" based on the master's evaluation of each servant's "ability". **he went away:** Again and again Jesus informs his followers that he will die, be resurrected on the third day, appear to them, then ascend to heaven. He promises that he will come again. He expects His followers to be diligently watching for that return. In 24:36 He says no one except the Father knows the exact time of His second coming. In these two parables Jesus teaches His followers what is expected of us while we await his return. **he made five talents more:** The first two servants trade and double the master's money. However the servant with one talent hid his masters money.

Commentaries and resources used in preparation of this message: [The Gospel according to Matthew](#), by Morris, [Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes](#), by Kenneth E. Bailey. [The Message of Matthew](#), by John Stott

¹⁹ Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰ And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.' ²¹ His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' ²² And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.' ²³ His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' ²⁴ He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, ²⁵ so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.'

after a long time... came and settled accounts: In the previous parable the groom's arrival is delayed and in this parable the Master is gone for a long time. Jesus is clearly informing His disciples that He will be gone a long time and that they need to understand this and watch for the signs of His return (Matt. 24). When the Master in Jesus' story returns there is a time of reckoning with his servants. Jesus teaches (see 31-33) that when he returns there will be a similar reckoning. **well done, good and faithful servant:** Jesus has the Master in the parable commend the servants who doubled the wealth entrusted to them. He commends their character (they have been proven "good") and their diligence (they have been proven "faithful"). These characteristics are what Jesus is calling to the attention of his listeners; while he is gone, they need to be "good" and "faithful". The currency of heaven is not gold but instead the expansion of God's kingdom in the hearts of humanity. The reward the Master gives is not money or an all-expenses-paid vacation, instead he rewards them with even greater levels of responsibility and leadership in his household and most especially, they enter the joy of the master. **Enter into the joy of your master:** The Master also rewards his faithful servants with an invitation to join him in a most intimate and significant place - his joy. He is inviting these good and faithful servants into the most personal parts of his family, his table, his celebration and his heart. **I knew you to be a hard man reaping where you did not sow:** The third servant has an excuse for doing nothing with the money entrusted to him other than hiding it safely in the ground. He says he did not do what the Master intended him to do (invest) because he perceived his Master as a hard man. He seems to believe that his Master demands too much of his servants, is too ambitious, too exacting over how his household operates - no one could ever please him. **so I was afraid:** This is a lie. If he was truly afraid of punishment for wrongly investing the money, he could have invested safely and easily with bankers (27). It's more than fear of punishment that motivates him to hide the money; could it be that he did not want to serve his Master or see his Master flourish? Isn't he

²⁶ But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? ²⁷ Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸ So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. ²⁹ For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. ³⁰ And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

³¹ "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. ³² Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³ And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. ³⁴ Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

showing that he refused the assignment that his Master had given him.

You wicked and slothful servant: Jesus has the master, on that day of reckoning, seeing the heart motivations of his servant by looking at his unfaithful behavior and excuses. The master labels it "wicked". It's wicked to not do what your master entrusts and intends for you to do. This servant had not even tried. He is condemned as "slothful" because he refused to do the work of the Master while the master was away.

take the talent from him and give it:

There is one servant who has proven to be "good and faithful" and to him more responsibility is entrusted.

cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness:

Judgment follows reckoning. The master sees that no fruit has been produced from the entrusted 'talent' and the servant is judged as worthless to him. Just as the foolish, unprepared girls of the first parable are excluded from the wedding party, so also this servant is cast out into darkness.

When the Son of Man comes in his glory:

This is the subject of Matthew 24-25. Jesus has given the disciples certain signs that will point toward his future return to earth. His arrival will be delayed for a long period of time, but he will return and then there will be a reckoning. Jesus instructs his followers to be watching, anticipating his imminent return and he wants us prepared to report on how we have used the 'talents' he has entrusted to us. Whatever blessings and responsibilities and opportunities Jesus has given us, have been given for a purpose and one day Jesus is coming back there will be an accounting that exposes what we have done with what has been entrusted to us.