

Faith University
Session 8 “What is Lacking in Your Faith?”

I. Introduction/Review

A. Previous Sessions

- 1. Session one – The measure of faith**
- 2. Session two – Increasing your measure of faith**
- 3. Session three – Single minded faith**
- 4. Session four – Faith Knows**
- 5. Session five – Faith Speaks**
- 6. Session six – Faith Acts**
- 7. Session seven – Faith Meditates**

II. What is lacking in your faith?

A. 1 Thessalonians 3:9-10 NKJV

⁹For what thanks can we render to God for you, for all the joy with which we rejoice for your sake before our God, ¹⁰night and day praying exceedingly that we may see your face and perfect what is lacking in your faith?

B. 2 Peter 1:2-11 NKJV

Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, ³ as His divine power has given to us all things that *pertain* to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, ⁴ by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that **through these** you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the ^[a]corruption *that is* in the world through lust.

⁵ But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, ⁶ to knowledge self-control, to self-control ^[b]perseverance, to perseverance godliness, ⁷ to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love.

⁸ For if these things are yours and **abound**, *you* will be neither ^[c]barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ **For he who lacks these things is shortsighted**, even to blindness, **and has forgotten** that he was cleansed from his old sins.

¹⁰ Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, **for if you do these things you will never stumble**; ¹¹ **for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.**

1. Summary of this passage

- a. Through his divine power, He has given to us all things
- b. We receive His provision through “The knowledge of Him”.
- c. We have been given “Precious Promises”, that by them we may be made partakers of divine nature given to us – so we might escape the corruption that it in the world.

d. Add to your faith – There are some companions that need to be added to your faith.

- Virtue - Knowledge
- Self-control - Perseverance
- Godliness - Brotherly Kindness
- Love

e. If you add these, you will never stumble, and an entrance will be supplied to you into everything available through the Kingdom of God

2. If I want my faith to be productive, I must add the necessary companions to my faith life.

If I fail to add these, my faith will be lacking.

C. Peter’s divine checklist of the companions of faith.

These seven companions are a support and help to my faith life.

My faith will not work properly without this support system.

1. Virtue

a. Most places translated power

Here It is translated – “Moral Excellence”.

b. Morality is important because God is a moral God.

c. We should go to the Word to find our standard for moral excellence. *Where we go – who we fellowship with – what we do – how we act -*

d. Heb 1:9 NKJV

You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness;

Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You

With the oil of gladness more than Your companion

- e. Actions, habits and addictions that are not in God's flow will limit the working of your faith.
- f. The first thing that faith should do in the life of the believer is to set you free from immoral living and bring you into a life of moral excellence. – *This should precede everything else that you use your faith to accomplish.*

g. Eph 4:22-24 NKJV

²² that you **put off**, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, ²³ and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, ²⁴ and that you **put on the new man** which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

If you don't put on the new man, you will live like the old man

- h. By putting on the "New Man", we will put on the life of excellence that will support and enhance our faith.
- i. When we are involved with things that are unclean, we are on the Devil's territory. This is an open door for issues to occur. *Faith doesn't override the circumstances when you are determined to stay on enemy territory.*
- j. Living a life of integrity keeps the door closed on the enemy.

2. Knowledge

- a. Faith is not compatible with ignorance – being untaught
- b. People of faith must be students of the Word

- c. Faith is compatible with knowledge
- d. The devil counts on our ignorance.
- e. Knowledge of the will of God is a support system to our faith.
- f. This knowledge is the renewing of the mind as stated in Romans 12. It is a life-long responsibility.
- g. Your greatest defense to the enemy is a submitted body and a renewed mind.

3. Self-Control – (Restraint)

- a. Our lives need to be balanced spiritually, physically and mentally.
- b. Self-control keeps us safe
- c. Before we were saved, we allowed our body to rule our life. Now that we are saved, we submit our bodies and minds to the will of God. Our mind and body will get out of control quickly if we allow it.
- d. Faith doesn't work right if your body is out of control.
- e. Say no to things to the flesh – to things that we know are out of the flow of God.
- f. Self-control involves what you think, speak, and do. "Faith especially must involve self-control of the mouth.

Prov 13:3 NKJV

He who guards his mouth preserves his life,
But he who opens wide his lips shall have destruction.

Prov 30:32 AMPC

³² If you have done foolishly in exalting yourself, or if you have thought evil, lay your hand upon your mouth

4. Patience

- a. Patience is enduring with a good attitude.
- b. If we are not patient, we will settle for the wrong thing
- c. **Heb 6:12 NLT**
Then you will not become spiritually dull and indifferent. Instead, you will follow the example of those who are going to inherit God's promises because of their faith and endurance.
- d. Without patience/endurance, faith will quit!
- e. Patience allows God to bring it to pass.
- f. Practice patience on everyday things.

5. Godliness

- a. God likeness
*We are interested in what God likes or desires
We pay attention to what God dislikes.*
- b. John 4:34 NKJV
³⁴ Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.
- c. Godliness is simply doing the will of God with joy.

d. My preference has become to do what He prefers

e. **Phil 2:13 NLT**

For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.

6. Brotherly Kindness

a. Peter made a distinction between love and brotherly kindness

b. Brotherly kindness = we are to demonstrate love and kindness to all people but especially to those who we are divinely connected to.

c. **Gal 6:10 NKJV**

¹⁰Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith

d. We are not divinely connected to all people. I am divinely connected to the Body of Christ. I have a responsibility to especially do good to the members of His body.

e. We have a responsibility to serve His body!

7. Love

a. The “Love Walk” is a continual work in the life of believers.

b. We are to always be an example of the Love of God to others.

c. Our actions motivated by love will always speak louder than our words.

d. Our acts of love will cause our words to be heard.