

Seven Supplements of Christian Character

Kyle Swanson

2 Peter 1:5-7

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Good morning, afternoon, officially now. Redeemer Bible Church family, it's great to see you. Glad that you guys are here. My name is Kyle. I'm one of the pastors here at Redeemer, and I'm glad that you have come together to worship God with us and together as a family this weekend. And I want to extend a special welcome to all the dads in the room, Happy Father's Day to you. We are thankful for you.

We recognize that dads are an incredibly important part of God's design for the family. In fact, we look to you as the spiritual leaders of your home. Whether you like it or not, God is going to evaluate the spiritual health of your family by your leadership. So we are grateful that you are here investing in your own spiritual growth and for that of your family. We are grateful to be celebrating with you this weekend. Well, Redeemer Bible Church is a Bible church, so let's do what we do. Let's take out our Bibles and open to 2 Peter 1. If you are a visitor with us, or you have one of those blue Bibles from the ushers, that's going to be on page 1120 or 1120. And in your own Bible, I don't know what page it is, but good luck.

We're going to be in verses five to seven of 2 Peter 1. And if you recall, earlier in this year, we started a series in 2 Peter called Established in Truth. And we've had two messages in this series already. If you weren't here for those or you hadn't come to Redeemer yet, you can find those and you can find all of our past sermons on our website. And I would encourage you to do that if you miss out on any, or if you'd like to catch up on some of Pastor Jon's past series, you can do that all on our website and that's there for you. But before we kinda of jump into our text for today, I want to reorient as to what we've already studied in those previous lessons.

First of all, 2 Peter, authorship written by the Apostle Peter. Many scholars will tell you other people wrote it, it's not a real letter, but the witness and testimony of the Holy Spirit is very clear that this internally and externally, this was testified to have been written by Peter the Apostle towards the end of his life. And unlike his previous letter, 2 Peter or 1 Peter, 1 Peter was written to a group of churches in a region called Asia Minor, we would know it as kind of modern-day Turkey, and they were facing persecution. So he is writing specifically to those churches and we can read that letter and we can glean from it and we can see what the situation was. Something special though about 2 Peter is he wrote this letter to a timeless audience of all Christians. In fact, he says that the recipients of this letter are, "This letter was written to those who have obtained a faith of equal standing with ours." And that's exactly a quote. And what we learned from that last time was what that means and what that doesn't mean. And I want to be clear that that doesn't mean that this refers to some measure of stature in the faith or some measure of accomplishment, some measure of gifting. In fact, rather, this is quite a foundational statement. He's saying this is a faith that is purely resting in the sovereign and complete work of God in salvation through the life, death and ministry of Christ and His resurrection. Is a faith described by Jude as once for all delivered to the saints, not once for all acquired or realized by the saints, once for all delivered to the saints by God. That is the salvation that we have, the faith that we are given is granted by the grace of a sovereign God. a divine act of mercy undeserved, unearned. And

according to Ephesians 2, John 3, Titus 3, a faith that is unattainable without the sovereign regenerating power of the Holy Spirit.

And in this letter, we find that Peter is using his last words. This is the last letter he's ever going to write. He's in prison. He's about to be put to death, and he's going to use these words to show his readers, the authority and sufficiency of Christ, the authority and sufficiency of his word and its goodness for our Christian life. And as a reminder of the precious and very great promises that belong to every believer in Christ. So importantly then, Peter wants to ground his readers in the knowledge of the truth, because knowing he knew that false teachers were going to come in, not only from outside of the church, but rise up from the brethren preaching false doctrine, teaching things that they were discovering outside of scripture. And so Peter was trying to put a halt to the efforts of these people, to raise up his people, his readers in the knowledge of the truth, to give them confidence in Christ, confidence in his word, and so that they could defend themselves against such teachers and their messages. So as we get into 2 Peter 1:5-7, I want us to remember that we're in the middle of Peter's final sermon. In this letter, this section here is actually a sermon that he wrote for his audience. Now he was in prison. And so he couldn't publicly preach this, but how nice is that, right? He he could preach it to a small audience or he could write it down and preserve it for all Christians for all time. So we get to hear this sermon and it was meant to establish his readers in truth as was the entire letter, but specifically this section is meant to arm them with godliness so that they could remain an effective witness for the gospel. And in his final sermon, Peter preaches seven supplements of Christian character that he calls on all of his readers to exercise, to build faithfulness to God on the foundation of God's faithfulness to them. So with that purpose, we're going to read together our text for today. We're going to be in 2 Peter 1:5-7, I'm actually going to read versus one to 11 as context. And as we do, this is the most important thing that we'll do in our service today is reading God's words. So out of reverence, if you can please stand with me for the reading of God's word.

2 Peter 1:1 says this, "Simon 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. May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord." "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. By which he has also granted to us as 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." "For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue and virtue with knowledge and knowledge with self-control and self-control with steadfastness and steadfastness with godliness in godliness with brotherly affection and brotherly affection with love." "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. For whoever lack these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins." "Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election. For if you practice these qualities you will never fall. For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." That is our text for this morning.

You may be seated. As you are, please pray with me for our time and study. Father, we turn to you because we need wisdom. James 1 says that if any of us lack wisdom, we can turn to you and ask and you will provide it richly for us. And we understand and recognize that we can know

nothing from your word other than what you reveal to us. And yet you promise to richly reveal to all of your people who are diligently spending time in your word, all the truth they need for life and godliness. So we ask Lord that you would do that this morning. Please bless our time together in Christ's name. Amen.

Well, these three verses in the middle of what I just read, versus five to seven, are by no means short of godly instruction, right? There's a long list of things in there, but I want to remind you as always that this is not simply a to-do list in order to become a Christian. These supplements, right, you you don't take supplements as your workout or your diet, right? You diet and workout and take supplements to help those, not to accomplish them, but to strengthen them. And so for our sake, we want to remember that this list of of virtues that we're about to study are not things you accomplish in order to be a Christian. They're to remind you that the faith that God has already given you calls for us to live this way as a reflection of that faith. And also God understands that you fulfilling his role for your life will bring you the most joy. I want you to remember that because it can seem like, oh, here goes, a preacher's going again and telling me what I have to do. No. This is instruction for you to experience the full joy and blessing of God.

And so the first point in our outline is coming from first part of verse five in our text. And that is the call for relentless effort. Okay. The call for relentless effort. So what do I mean by that? Well, we read this whole section. And so we we kind of have an immediate reminder of what this means, but this verse begins with, for this very reason. Now if a book began that way, it wouldn't make any sense. For what very reason, you have to ask that question. Now we read what that reason was, but if we recall, even from our last studies, that God not only has supplied us with every spiritual blessing that we need, everything we need for life and godliness, but that he has also supplied for us his precious and very great promises. And these are all of those promises that are given to everyone who is in Christ. They're promises that are outlined for us in places in scripture like Ephesians 1 and 2 that tells us that we've been blessed with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ. That we've been sealed in the spirit by the Royal seal of the King, we'll never lose our salvation. God will never let go of us. That we've been raised with him and seeded in the heavenly places with him. All of these promises, by the way, that God accomplished for us by sacrificing his beloved Son for our redemption.

These promises that he fulfilled, that he is fulfilling and that he will fulfill in your life if you are a Christian, Peter is using to remind you that God is relentlessly accomplishing salvation and redemption on your behalf, relentless effort. Now, why would Peter take the phrase and do that? Why would he call us back to remember that? Because he's about to ask us to make that same effort, not to earn or to add to our salvation, but to reflect it, to showcase it, to supplement it. And as James would tell us, to show us our faith by our works. And again, not to earn salvation, not to add even to our salvation, but to showcase our salvation to the world around us. God has accomplished redemption in your life completely if you are in Christ. And now Peter teaches us how to use our life to remain effective for gospel ministry as verse eight tells us. And you know what? He tells us it's going to take some work. It's going to take some effort. You see, God has granted to us generously the faith that we need. He has supplied all that we need through the transforming power of the Holy Spirit. And now Peter is going to shift gears from what God has done for you in bringing you to faith, to what you must do for God in order to be faithful.

This is a faithfulness by the way, that is aggressively pursued. It must be, which is why Peter says in verse five, make every effort. In the same manner, by the way that God made every effort

to save you, you are to make every effort to bring him glory, to serve him faithfully, to represent him as his ambassador in this world and to live your life for him. And as you can sense, that is not a part-time calling. It's not a casual or a passing hobby that God is requesting of you. This instead is Peter reminding us that it cost Jesus everything in order to redeem his people and it is going to cost you everything to follow him, because your life now redeemed by God no longer belongs to you.

1 Corinthians 6:20, Paul is reminding his readers, a church in Corinth that is living their lives for their own pleasure. "Hey guys, I am not my own and neither are you. I have been bought with a price. I belong to Jesus." And in Roman 6:15, Paul also reminds us that we are no longer slaves to sin. Guess what? When you were dead in your trespasses and sins, you had no choice, but to act that way, whether you think you did or not. Even in your "righteousness", it was prideful self-righteousness, we could not please God, but now we are no longer slaves to sin. We are bound to righteousness and bound to do God's will, which is to bring him glory with our lives. How? By making every effort aggressively pursuing sanctification, like a a hunter aggressively pursues its prey, like like a marathon runner aggressively pursues finish line, right? We don't see marathon runners waking up at 9:00 on a Saturday morning going like, "Hey, I think I'll run a marathon today." And kind of like, "Oh man, this is hard." That takes relentless effort and practice and and discipline to get yourself ready for that. Takes discipline to climb Mount Everest. Just say, "Oh, I think I'll give it a go. We'll see what happens." No. You got to train and raise the funds and get there and acclimate and do all that and suffer and suffer in order to reach the summit.

So let me ask you a question. Do you ever stop and ask yourself, why is my life producing so little fruits, so little righteousness, so little love for Jesus? I don't even want to tell people that I know him or call myself a Christian because it's embarrassing. My friend, Jesus has words for you this morning through Peter. And there are words that will help you to understand exactly how you can take the life that God has given you and put it to practice for his glory. And you will find that joy that you're lacking in your heart now. And as we learn and we'll learn in the next time in verse eight, these virtues, these supplements will help to keep you from being ineffective for gospel ministry, for a witness to Christ.

And friends, we know that in Christ we're given salvation that's accomplished. That is as good enough to get us in the kingdom. But as I asked last time, why then are when we get to know Christ, when we come to faith, are we not just zap to heaven? Wouldn't that be easier? Wouldn't that be nice? Didn't anyone want to be in heaven right now instead of here? That'd be nice. That'd be really nice. But we know that God has work for us to do. That we are called to be ambassadors for the kingdom until our King returns. And so God has work for us. God has accomplishments for us to do the work of the ministry. He can do it all himself, but he's chosen in his plan to use you to bring himself glory and to bring you reward. On top of every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, he wants to bless you for your faithfulness. And so we do that through the aggressive pursuit of making every effort to put on these supplements.

And so the beautiful thing is we ask the question, what do we need to do? What do we need to practice and put on? The Bible's not ambiguous, just keep reading. It tells us in the next section. And so that's going to be point number two. And this is where we'll land for the majority of our time, the supplements of Christian character. These are those supplements we want to know that faith has accomplished salvation for us. And we put these supplements on in order to showcase our faith to the world. Make every effort to do these. We are to strive for, to fight for, to pursue,

to hunt, to practice, to train in, to perfect, to become experts in, to become known by these standards, these supplements of Christian character.

Now I call them supplements because Peter calls them supplements and he does so rightly because he wants us to note that our faith, which is granted to us by God is sufficient for our justification. We see that in Titus 3 as well, but it is not sufficient for our full, complete witness without the works that prove the transforming power of the spirit in our lives. And so unless you think Peter is being weird or ambiguous here, I want you to know that when he says make every effort by the power of the Holy Spirit, he is commanding us to make every effort. It's not a choice. It's not a suggestion. This is not like, well you know, we'd certainly be a lot better if we did, this is a command. This is like the coach telling the athlete, "You've got to push through. You have to do this in order to accomplish your goal." And so this is what we do. We must we must supplement or supply. And by the way, this means generous supply. This is not like, okay, I'll throw a little effort here. This is like, imagine you're living in the East of the United States in the 1800s and you've got to make your way across country on a wagon train. What are you going to do? We got to get supplies, generous supplies. We can't run out of food. We'll die. We got we got to get wagons full of supplies. That's what this is saying. Generous supplies of these qualities. We must live constantly supplying these qualities in concert with the faith that God has given us to do so. So that, always the purpose, the reason we can have an effective Christian ministry and witness for our King.

So Peter gives us these seven supplements that when practiced, as we'll learn from verse eight, keep us from being ineffective. And by the way, they're not only ours, but they are constantly increasing. We'll get there next time. That we need to be growing in these things, not just put them on or be content. Well, I'm kind of like this. And so that's good enough. Constantly growing and refining be more like Jesus in these. And so in the context of 2 Peter, Peter gives us this list. We see other lists of virtues in the Bible, but Peter gives us this list because he's got a context in which we're living right? The last days when false teachers are creeping in introducing heresies. So we must know this list and practice these things in order to be protected, unshaken by these lies and false teachers. We need to trust in the promises of Christ in his word, that he will come back, that he will complete the work of redemption and he will fulfill every promise in his word, unlike what false teachers will tell you. And that is why we have this list right here.

So as we jump in, we want to understand what these words mean, and we want to discover how we can grow in them and make every effort to showcase them through our faith. And so the first supplement we see is in verse five and that is make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue. Virtue is number one. And this can be a little bit ambiguous, virtue. We all kind of think we know what that means, but in our context here what that means is all that is good and right and true and acceptable to God, as we see in Philippians 4:8, this is all of God's word. So the first one here clearly is difficult, but it's accessible. It's knowable. It just takes effort. Does it not? How do you read a book? You start on one page and you start reading words. And you keep reading and keep reading and keep reading until you finish. God's word is full of virtue that we must know in order to put into practice.

So the question is, do you truly believe the Bible? Do you trust the tenets of the faith that God has granted to you for your salvation? If you do, if you believe them, you will do them. You will practice them. And that is a virtuous life. What we call practice of virtue, or practice is just a fancy word for the practice of doing something. All of these things, not perfectly, not without

error, but we know that we strive constantly to make these more refined and more Christlike in our practice. And so the question is these virtues, where are they found? How do we know them?

What's the next supplement right in the line to our virtue, we add knowledge. And the text tells us, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue and your virtue with knowledge, not a little effort, not I'll read the Bible when it's convenient, every effort to know it, to know it, to understand it, adding it to my virtue. This is the desire to be morally excellent before God only accomplished by the imbibing of his word on a daily basis. The knowledge of God's statutes is the only way to know about what God's statutes are, right? Makes sense. And the knowledge of God is not only necessary for our spiritual growth and for our success in being an ambassador for Christ, but it's central to Peter's entire letter. He's writing to an audience that he knows will be tricked by false teachers. And so no less than seven times, does Peter exhort the need for knowledge, that is godly knowledge, knowledge for virtuous living as well as knowledge for protection against the lies of false teachers. What are false teachers look like? What are they going to say? How are they going to act? And what are they going to tell you? And then he ends his letter with the same call, constantly always strive for and pursue the knowledge of God and of our Savior Jesus Christ. So this is a qualified knowledge. It's not just, let's go to the library and read every book we can and absorb all of human knowledge. No, no, no. This is divine knowledge. This is knowledge of his word.

And what that's going to bring about is our next virtue and that is self-control, our next supplement. Guys, this is the practical application of virtue and knowledge, right? If we know the virtuous life God has called us to in his word, that's virtue and knowledge, the practice of those is self-control. And Paul calls self-control two different things in 1 Timothy 3, when he is describing the qualifications for pastors and elders, as well as describing what an exemplary Christian life looks like. Okay. And they're kind of old-fashioned words, but these are what they are, temperance and prudence. Okay. Those are the two Amish girls who live down the street, right? These names are actually great names. And what they mean are both internal and external complete control of the body, the mind and the will in submission to God. Right? And so it's important to use both those words, because you have the Pharisees who could exercise really good outward self-control by the way, by their own standards, but inside what did Jesus call them? Whitewashed tombs full of dead men's bones, because inside they're just lusting and rebelling and wanting their own glory. So they don't have internal self-control. We need both. And this is not by the way, self-control according to your own standards or your family standards or well, that's the culture I grew up in, don't care.

Self-control according to your father in heaven's standards, that is the righteousness we must follow. Righteousness for our own standards and for our own self is useless for godliness. That's why Peter calls us to virtue and knowledge because that way we know the standards by which we're called to live in a self-controlled manner. Well, I don't drink. Great, but where does it say that in the Bible that that's the standard of self-control and self-righteousness? That might be a cultural expression and it might be a fine one, but are we doing the things the Bible has called us to? That's just an example. And the knowledge of God will give us not only the information of what these virtues are, but I love this, the mind of God behind the why, as to why his ways are higher and better than ours, thus, you know what, giving us the desire. Sometimes you be do this, it's like, well, I don't want to. Do this because ultimately it's going to be good for you in these 18 ways. Oh, okay, great. Right. That's what God does. He doesn't withhold that information. He

teaches us his ways and why they're better and so we practice self-control. And then adding to our self-control comes the next supplement steadfastness.

These two go hand in hand, but have you ever heard somebody yell, probably in a military context, stand fast, hold fast, hold your ground, hold the line, be immovable. And it for us it's in our commitment to do right. Is it not? What we realize is self-control is a discipline. Like this is an active thing that we have to do. In fact, Paul demonstrates it in 1 Corinthians 9, where he tells us like, "I buffet my body." That's an old word for, I punch myself into submission. I beat my flesh into submission and make it my slave because it's trying to make me its slave. It's trying to drag me away, according to my lust and passions and things that I want to do. He talks about that in Roman 7, and yet he has to fight against it and put it to death constantly. And so as self-control grows as a discipline and a practice, what we see is something interesting, just like athletes who have natural gifting and ability, they don't just live on that. If they do their mediocre, they discipline themselves and they train that gifting to become excellent in what they do and that's why we admire them. And in the same manner we take self-control and we grow it and discipline it and train it into steadfastness. And that practice of self-control will cause you to grow roots, like an Oak tree. Immovable, unshakable with endurance, with constancy, with a desire, a resolve to honor God. We're going to see, this as characteristics of a godly person who is unswayed by public opinion or other people's teaching. That's not in God's word. This is what God's word says. Faithful, grounded in the truth and knowledge of God and his desire to fulfill God's purpose through his life.

So we remember how this section started, right? For this reason, make every effort. Make every effort. So how do we make every effort in steadfastness? Who's our example? I believe God himself is our immovable example. He is He is unchanging. He is declared the end from the beginning. He has given his steadfast covenant love and promises from the very beginning to Adam, to Abraham, Isaac and to Joseph and to Ezra, Nehemiah, to Jesus, to his disciples, to us. God is not asking you to accomplish or do anything that he has not already done on your behalf. And you are to reflect that in your character to show his steadfastness to the world around you. We make every effort, guys, because God made every effort to bring us to salvation and to grant us the faith that makes the practice of these supplements even possible.

And so to steadfastness then we add godliness. And this simply means acting in a manner of piety, of humble worship, of trusting submission to God. It's both internal and external. It's holy reverence, a desire to show with action the true heart submission that is in you. To be godly means to love and practice these supplements. Why? Because it pleases God that you do and you want to be like him and you want to worship him and bring him honor. But why does it please God that you do these? Because He knows that it brings about your ultimate good in doing so and your ultimate joy. And so when we follow God's ways, we practice his statutes, we demonstrate his behavior in our lives, we bring glory to God through our lives. And that my friends is godliness. It's very simple. It's not some magic formula. You don't have to go to a mountaintop to learn this. That book sitting on your lap, you open it up and read it and know it. And it will teach you everything you need. We can see how these supplements are fitting together like facets on a diamond. We have the what and the why and the how. And we're just looking at this virtuous Christian life. But we have to add another one. We have to add two more, but this next one might sting a little bit and we'll kind of get in your kitchen.

That is brotherly affection. Now why would that sting? How many times have you said, or rather you've heard somebody else say, right. God says I got to love you. I don't got to like you. I'm not

going to be your friend. I'm not going to like you. Really, interesting. So that's your human version, your practicing humanness before God, right? That we offer conditional brotherly affection only to those people that we want to maybe that give us something in return or that have a status that we're after, or maybe just based on a feeling, right? But that's not godly affection. That's human-based action, not godliness. So when we add brotherly affection to our godliness, we love others with brotherly affection, all who are part of the family of God. And in fact, Galatians 6:10 says that, "We do good to all men, especially first and foremost to those of the household of faith." So look around, left and right. Look, I can see your heads if they're not moving, you got you got to obey. Do you guys like these people? Are you looking around the room like, man, I can't wait to come to this service. I see all my friends, my family, I love these people. I can't wait to serve them. This is what brotherly affection is. It's that desire to spend time and fellowship with your favorite people. Now listen, I understand and Jesus understands that we don't give the same quantity of brotherly affection to every person in the room. Right? That would be weird, right? If you show me the same quantity of affection, you show to your wife, I'm going to run. So we show the same quality though of brotherly affection, the same quality we offer to everyone, maybe in different measures, because you either know somebody really well or you don't, but the idea is that brotherly affection closes relational gaps. And it's going to make our last virtue really easy to practice because when you actually truly demonstrate brotherly affection, it's very hard to not want to self-sacrifice for other people, right? Your best pal is like, "Hey man, my car broke down. Will you come get me?" It's like you know, you're going to say yes. If it's somebody you don't know, I guess I have to because I'm Christian, but you grow in affections, your natural desire to want to show brotherly affection to other Christians. Then we grow in our ability to practice the last supplement that we see, which is love.

And guys, it's Father's Day, I'm not going to embarrass you. This is not mushy-gushy Hallmark movie, let's move to the mountains and open up a bed and breakfast in the snow type love. That's not what this is talking about. This is talking about self-sacrificing agape, that's the Greek word, agape love. This is not a feeling. It is an action. It is a desire that for the good of somebody else, you are willing to sacrifice something that you need or have for their good, because they are more important to you. Okay. And Paul says that this is the greatest on the list of virtues in 1 Corinthians 13, right? We could have all manner of faith, we could prophesy and do all these wondrous things for God. But you know what? We don't have love agape, self-sacrificing, built on brotherly affection love. It's just noise. It's useless. He says, like a gong, a gong, a gong, a gong walking around. That's not helpful for anyone. It's not fun. Imagine somebody just following you around doing that. It's like, that's useless. We don't want that. We don't want to be just noise. True agape love seeks the good of others. And primarily it does so not just in material goods, but primarily by pointing people to Jesus and his word and how they can fulfill these supplements in their life in a more glorious and discipline manner.

As we recall, this passage comes in the middle of the Apostle Peter's very last sermon. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, he gives us kind of this chain of virtues that we see. And we see other chains of virtues in scripture, right? Galatians 5, the fruits of the spirit and Romans 5, the fruits of suffering. And these things are these chains that we can compare them all and read them all. And we need to know them all so that they don't contradict each other, but what they do is present for us tests in various situations and circumstances in life and whether or not our behavior is matching up to what the Bible says. So in this list, this circumstance here, right? We can see how in times of trouble, in times of false teaching and lies about Jesus, how a wise, knowledge-

driven, virtuous life that demonstrates self-control and steadfastness and godliness and brotherly affection and agape love encompass all of God's instruction for godly living.

Can you see that? Isn't that fascinating? That God in his kindness has given us situationally this list to know and understand for us in this last time, how to honor him and love him and to protect ourselves against lies. And then in fact, we know this from Ephesians 2:10, scripture says that, "We are his workmanship created in Christ Jesus for good works." Oh, but I don't do good works for my salvation. You're absolutely right, you do them because of. He created us in Christ for good works, which by the way he established beforehand. And I love the grace in this that you should, must, no, that you might walk in them, right? That yes, you should and you must, but he says, codified in his word, that you might walk in them. And there's a subjectiveness to that. And that's just a way of saying like, he knows that we're not always going to obey perfectly, but he's putting that out there for us to say, this is the standard. So when you fail, get back up again, I've got more good works for you to accomplish for my glory, for my name's sake and for your good.

So what is our response to a list like this? What should our response be? When we're confronted with a list like this, how should we think about it? Well, we want to remember and keep Peter's exhortation in mind, first and foremost, that the practice of these supplements is not equal with the accomplishment of your faith. You don't do these things to be saved. The the lost in his sin self-righteous person will do these things and say, "Look how godly I am." And the true dead sinner regenerated by the life-giving spirit of God will look at these and say, "Look what Christ did. And because of that, I want to reflect these." So it's critical to remember that salvation is completely a work of God. We were dead in our trespasses, remember. Titus 3:4 and following says, "But when the goodness and loving kindness of our God and savior appeared, he saved us." What did you do in that? Nothing. He saved us, not because of work done by us in righteousness, but according to his mercy, by the washing of regeneration, that is the infusion of spiritual vitality in life and the renewal of the Holy Spirit. And he goes on to equate the salvation he's discussing with justification that is that moment in time when God looks at you and declares you forgiven of your sins and righteous because of Jesus. That's what we're talking about. And when that happens, a change happens inside of us.

2 Corinthians 5:17 says that, "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away, that guy's dead, behold the new has come." And when you're in Christ, a new creation and you've been given the new birth of the Holy Spirit, as we learn in John 3, the Holy Spirit takes up residence in your life and you still have not done a thing about it. This is all God. God declares you righteous. He calls you to himself. He predestined you according to Roman 8, before Romans 8, before creation he called you and he is justifying you right now. He justified you in that moment, which results in what, you, the new creature seeing your sin, seeing your condition and running to him in repentance and faith. And salvation is given to you as the first fruit's there. Repentance and faith, those works are results of the spirit at work in your life. So when we see that and when you know, and when Peter says that if this has happened to you and you've obtained the same faith as the apostles, Peter was saved the same way, by the way, he wasn't special. He repented of his sins and place his faith in Christ, that you who are safe in Christ are blessed with every spiritual blessing and given promises, should now do what may what? Make every effort to put on these qualities. Make every effort to supplement the faith that God has granted you entrance into his kingdom and adoption into his family so that God can use you to bring himself glory. And can use you to bring other people into his kingdom and can lavishly reward you for doing so. That's just amazing.

This is why Peter calls them supplements. He wants to ensure you don't practice them as self-righteousness like sinners are so inclined to do, but that you put them on to prove and demonstrate the work that God has done in your life already. And we bring him glory by doing so. And so we'll learn next time as Peter describes what happens next, when we do these things, it prevents us from being ineffective in the gospel. It gives us assurance of salvation and a rich and glorious entrance into the kingdom of Christ. Just like that marathon runner whooshing across the finish line, instead of falling on his face, 500 yards short because he didn't train and practice. And then he crawls his way across the line. That guy's not going to get the standing accolades, right? He'd be like, wow, I feel sorry for that guy. He still made it across the line, but man. Instead, this is like the entrance of a victorious marathon runner coming into the stadium, glorious entrance. We all get entrance, but how do we want to enter? And how do we want to live for eternity in that? So my friends, if this sounds foreign to you, if you're sitting there just head spinning, if you've never repented of your sins and placed your faith in Christ today is the day.

Tomorrow, by the way, even though it seems like it always comes, is never promised. It's never promised. It is the fool who says I can just do tomorrow and yet the Lord says tonight your soul is demanded of you. Guys, repent of your sins, placed your faith in Christ for salvation. Psalm 51:17 says, "A broken and contrite spirit, O God, you will not despise." Those who come to the Lord in humility and in faith seeking the righteousness of Christ to pay the penalty for their sin, God will not refuse you. Turn to Jesus and find forgiveness. Find that peace that is promised to your heart, that your soul so longingly looks for and needs. Do so today, find his grace, begin your true life in Christ living so for his glory and for your good. Amen. Amen. Let's pray.

Father, what a privilege and a joy it is to study a letter like this. You've given this letter to us freely and you expect us to know it and to find joy in it and to read it and to be built up and bolstered by it. And father, I want to pray for clarity on all of these things that we don't practice these things in self-righteousness, but that we humble ourselves before you and trust in Christ for our salvation and the result of which we live this way to bring you honor and to show other people in a lost and dying world, the gospel that is their hope. Father, please do that work in every individual life in this room and do that for us as a church. We ask in Jesus name, amen.