

## 7 Add-ons for Christian Maturity Part 3

### Part 3

2Pet. 1:1 Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ,

To those who through the righteousness of our God and Saviour Jesus Christ have received a faith as precious as ours: 2 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 life and godliness 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** and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

5 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, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love.

**We have looked at: Goodness, Knowledge, Self-control, Perseverance,**

The 5<sup>th</sup> Add-on to our faith is:

### **1. Add Godliness:**

#### **Godliness in Life...**

Ephesians 4:1-3 (NIV) 1 As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you **to live a life worthy of the calling you have received**. 2 Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. 3 Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

- As Christians we are called to live a life that glorifies God... A life that is "God Like."
- Lives worthy of being called a Christian.
- Lives that are a witness to the people around us...
- God Likeness

### **1 Timothy 6:11-12**

Paul's Final Charge to Timothy

But you, man of God, flee from all this, and **pursue** righteousness, **godliness**, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

- Pursue righteousness and godliness...
- Pursue = "Seek after" godliness

### **Godliness at work:**

Colossians 3:22-24 (TPT) 22 Let every employee listen well and follow the instructions of their employer, not just when their employers are watching, and not in pretence, but faithful in all things. For we are to live our lives with pure hearts in the constant awe and wonder of our Lord God. 23 Put your heart and soul into every activity you do, **as though you are doing it for the Lord** himself

and not merely for others. 24 For we know that we will receive a reward, an inheritance from the Lord, as we serve the Lord Yahweh, the Anointed One!

- When we are at work, we are not just working for our boss but working for the Lord.
- Work as if you were doing it for the Lord...
- Brings glory to his name...

**Get so busy doing the dos that you don't have time to do the don'ts!!!!**

**We become Godly (Godliness) by spending time with God.**

- The only way we can become more like God is to spend time in prayer, worship and the Word of God.

## 2. Add Brotherly Kindness:

Matt. 22:37 Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: **'Love your neighbour as yourself.'** 40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

- Brotherly Kindness is looking out for your brother or sister in the Lord.
- It's growing in maturity to a place where you help others.

You have a Baby:

- First 12 months you are carrying them around and then they start to crawl.
- Then they stand and you then encourage them to walk to you...
- Then they start to walk, and you cannot find them...
- Getting into everything and grabbing things from shelves.
- Then they start to run and off they go...
- School, teens, young adults then young married.
- Then grandchildren and it all starts again...
- Your children and teaching their children to stand and walk...
- We need to get to a place where we can stand strong for God and be able to help others in their walk with the Lord...
- Care for others and support them along the way until they are able to walk on their own. (Connect groups)

Gal. 6:9 **Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.** 10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, **especially to those who belong to the family of believers.**

- Christian maturity is about growing in our walk with God by putting these add-ons into our lives.
- We then become Spiritually strong to the point where we can not only stand on our own two feet but be able to teach others how to walk for the Lord.
- Not only in speech but through our witness and followers of Christ.
- The harvest comes as we reach out to the lost and lift them up and help them to live for God.

**Add Love: agape'**

God's Agape' Love for us

- We know that God's love towards us is Agape' (Unconditional Love)
- There is nothing you can do that could make god love you more and there is nothing you can do that will ever make him love you less. (Phillip Yancey)
- Nothing can ever separate us from the love of God...

Rom 8:35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? 36 As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." 37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, **nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

Rom. 5:6 You see, at just the right time, **when we were still powerless**, Christ died for the ungodly. 7 Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. 8 **But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**

- Christ forgave us when we were his enemy...
- When we did not want to know God or sometimes spoke against HIM,
- HE SENT HIS SONE TO DIE FOR US.

Our Agape' love for others:

John 13:34 (TPT) "So I give you now a new commandment: Love each other just as much as I have loved you. 35 **For when you demonstrate the same love I have for you** by loving one another, everyone will know that you're my true followers."

- A love for the sinner and the saint.
- A love for the drunk and the disciple
- That unconditional love was the very thing that brought me to the Lord.
- Love that compelled Christ to die on the Cross.
- Not about himself but the needs of others...
- When you experience the joy of seeing people come to the lord that you have reached out to, you will never want to turn back to the world.

1Cor 13:1 And yet I will show you the most excellent way.

1 If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but **do not have love**, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. 3 If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. 4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

8 **Love never fails**

- If we have unconditional Love for our brothers and sisters?
- It's the ability to forgive even when people hurt us...
- The same love that Jesus had for us...
- Driving the nails though His hands and he is saying
- Father forgive them, for they Know not what they do...
- Should we still have hurts or offences from the past?
- Love covers a multitude of sins.

What about our Agape' love towards God?

- Do we love him unconditionally?
- It's easy to say we love God when everything is going well and our prayers are being answered...
- But what about the times when God doesn't answer our prayers.
- Do we still love same?
- Sometimes people walk away from God because he doesn't do what they thought he should.
- They sometimes feel like God has failed them and they carry that hurt...
- Your love for God should be that Agape' Love...
- Love him in the good times and the difficult.
- The times when you can see Him at work and also those times when he seems to be a million miles away.
- We walk by faith and not by sight or feelings.

In the time of Habakkuk (609BC): The Israelites had lived under great prosperity under King Josiah but then they turned away from God and now the country was in drought.

- Babylonians were coming to destroy them...
- Babylonians were feared as they were ruthless.

**Habakkuk 3:17-19** (NIV) 17 Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, 18 **yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will be joyful in God my Saviour.** 19 The Sovereign LORD is my strength; he makes my feet like the feet of a deer, he enables me to tread on the heights.

We need to have an unconditional love for God.....

**Matt. 22:37** Jesus replied: “**Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.**’ **38** This is the first and greatest commandment. **39** And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’ **40** All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

**2Peter1:5** 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, **brotherly kindness**; and to brotherly kindness, **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 if anyone does not have them, he is **nearsighted and blind**, and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins.

- Nearsighted and Blind.
- Only seeing what is happening now and not thinking about your future.
- If you want to grow in Christian maturity and fulfil the plan that God has for you;
- Make every effort to possess these qualities in Increasing measure.

**Grow in: Goodness, Knowledge, Self-control, Perseverance, Godliness, Brotherly Kindness, Love..**

**10** Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. **For if you do these things, you will never fall,** **11** and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Goodness, Knowledge, Self-control, Perseverance, Godliness, Brotherly Kindness, Love.