

ADDITIONS TO FAITH

John Edwards

Peter addressed Christians in the first century: *“And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith...”* (2 Pet. 1:5). Faith is *“precious”* (2 Pet. 1:1). Without it, we cannot please God (Heb. 11:6). Yet, this text shows that faith must be added to. *“Giving all diligence”* expresses the importance of adding to our faith, and the earnestness required in accomplishing it. Let’s examine some additions to faith as set forth in 2 Peter 1:5-7:

VIRTUE. We have been *“called...to glory and virtue”* (2 Pet. 1:3). Virtue is moral excellence or goodness. We must pursue a virtuous course of thought, feeling and action. Paul penned, *“Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things”* (Phil. 4:8).

KNOWLEDGE. Knowledge of God and His will is vitally important. Israel of old was *“destroyed for lack of knowledge”* (Hosea 4:6). Jesus said, *“And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free”* (Jn. 8:32). We can’t

do or teach what we do not know. We should strive to be *“filled with all knowledge”* (Rom. 15:14). Peter declared, *“But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever”* (2 Pet. 3:18).

TEMPERANCE. Temperance is self-control. Thayer says, “the virtue of one who masters his desires and passions, especially his sensual appetites”. When Paul *“reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled...”* (Acts 24:25). The fruit of the Spirit includes *“temperance”* (Gal. 5:23).

PATIENCE. Patience is steadfastness, constancy, endurance. Thayer says, “in the N. T. the characteristic of a man who is unswerved from his deliberate purpose and his loyalty to faith and piety by even the greatest trials and sufferings”. We are taught, *“... let us run with patience the race that is set before us”* (Heb. 12:1). *“...patient continuance in well doing”* is rewarded with *“eternal life”* (Rom. 2:7).

GODLINESS. Godliness is reverence, respect, piety toward God. Vine says, “to be devout, denotes that piety which, characterized by a Godward attitude, does that which is well-pleasing to Him”. 1 Timothy 4:8

says, *“...godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.”*

BROTHERLY KINDNESS. Brotherly kindness is love of the brethren. Thayer says, “in the N. T. ‘the love which Christians cherish for each other as ‘brethren’”. Paul instructed saints at Rome, *“Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love...”* (Rom. 12:10). Hebrews 13:1 states, *“Let brotherly love continue.”*

CHARITY. Charity is affection, good will, love. The Corinthians were exhorted, *“Follow after charity...”* (1 Cor. 14:1) and *“Let all your things be done with charity”* (1 Cor. 16:14). Peter penned, *“And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins”* (1 Pet. 4:8).

The value of these faith additions is expressed in the words (2 Pet. 1:8-11): *“ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful”* (v. 8), *“ye shall never fall”* (v. 10), and *“an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom”* (v. 11). *“But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins”* (v. 9).

POSSESSING THE MIND OF CHRIST

John Edwards

Christians are taught to possess the mind of Christ. Paul instructed saints at Philippi: *"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus"* (Phil. 2:5). In order to possess the mind of Christ, we must know what kind of mind Christ had. Thus, we study.

MIND OF HUMILITY.

Humility of mind is expressed in this statement: *"Who, being in the form of God thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself..."* (Phil. 2:6-8). We are taught, *"Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves"* (Phil. 2:3).

MIND OF OBEDIENCE.

Christ *"learned...obedience by the things which he suffered"* (Heb. 5:8). He *"became obedient unto death, even the*

death of the cross" (Phil. 2:8). And He is *"the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him"* (Heb. 5:9). Do we have a mind to obey what the Bible teaches?

MIND OF UNITY. *"That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us..."* was His prayer in John 17:21. There is a real need for Christians to *"be of the same mind in the Lord"* (Phil. 4:2).

MIND OF READINESS. The Lord was always ready to do His Father's will. *"Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God..."* (Heb. 10:9). We must be of a ready mind like the Bereans who *"received the word with all readiness of mind"* (Acts 17:11).

MIND OF UNSELFISHNESS. Jesus set the perfect example. *"For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich"* (2 Cor. 8:9). He gave His all for us! We must give ourselves (2 Cor. 8:5-7). Philippians 2:4, *"Look not every man on his own things, but every man also*

on the things of others", teaches us to be unselfish in our attitude toward others.

MIND OF FORGIVENESS.

One of His last utterances from the cross was, *"Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do"* (Lk. 23:34). We need to have a forgiving spirit! *"Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye"* (Col. 3:13).

MIND OF WORKING. Jesus was not lazy. He had a mind to work! *"I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work"* was His attitude (Jn. 9:4). When we have *"a mind to work"* (Neh. 4:6), we will begin to get things done! Paul said, *"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord"* (1 Cor. 15:58).

Using this as a personal checklist, how does our mind compare with the mind of Christ Jesus?

The Terre Haute **SPEAKER** is published weekly by the church of Christ at Terre Haute, Indiana.

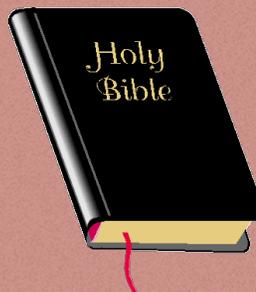
Assembling At:

4017 E Margaret DR
Terre Haute, IN 47803
[Exit 11 (I-70) W on HWY 46,
W on Margaret DR approx. 1 mile]

Assembling Times:

Sunday @ 10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.
Wednesday @ 7:00 p.m.

Come be with us!



We Speak Where the Bible Speaks.

We Are Silent Where the Bible Is Silent.

We Do Bible Things in Bible Ways.

www.churchofchristatterrehaute.com