

Change by Confronting Reality

2 Peter 1:5-8

Big Idea: Because God has granted us everything needed for life and godliness, believers must make every effort to grow in Christlike qualities that keep us from being ineffective and unfruitful.

Key Verse - 2 Peter 1:8: *"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."*

OPENING REVIEW: GOD WANTS US TO CHANGE

Precious faith is obtained from our Lord and grants us **grace and peace, life and godliness**, and **promises and protection**. Biblical change is both natural (2 Cor. 5:17) and anticipated (2 Pet. 1:5-7).

THE CHALLENGE OF THE PASSAGE

Let this passage define the person we want to be, and make every effort to add these qualities to our lives day by day.

1) COMMITMENT TO CHRIST - MORAL EXCELLENCE AND PRACTICAL KNOWLEDGE

Virtue / moral excellence is practical godly behavior. Knowledge is not merely theory; it is truth put to work in the daily circumstances of life.

Virtue	_____

Knowledge	_____

A moral issue is any matter involving right and wrong as defined by God’s character and revealed will, rather than merely personal preference, culture, tradition, or wisdom.

Helpful Test: Does Scripture clearly command or forbid it?
Does it honor or dishonor God’s character?
Does it express love for God and neighbor?
Would doing it involve sin according to biblical teaching?

2) COURAGE FOR CHRIST - SELF-CONTROL, STEADFASTNESS, GODLINESS

Self-control is self-mastery: learning to say “no” to sinful desires, unhealthy pressures, and emotions that would rule us. Steadfastness means remaining under pressure and being willing to try again after mistakes and failures. Godliness is a right relationship with God that shows itself in worship and dignified love toward others.

Self-control	_____

Steadfastness	_____

Godliness	_____

3) COMPASSION LIKE CHRIST - BROTHERLY AFFECTION AND LOVE

Brotherly affection means showing special concern for brothers and sisters in Christ by strengthening friendships and mutual affection. Love is desiring the highest good for others and sacrificing to meet the needs of others.

Brotherly affection	_____
Love	_____

SEVEN QUALITIES TO ADD TO YOUR FAITH

Quality	Personal Checkpoint
Moral excellence	Do the right thing because God has spoken.
Knowledge	Learn truth you can put into practice.
Self-control	Say no to what rules you besides Christ.
Steadfastness	Remain under pressure and try again.
Godliness	Worship God rightly and treat others rightly.
Brotherly affection	Strengthen your relationships in the church family.
Love	Sacrifice for the highest good of others.

PERSONAL APPLICATION

One reality I need to confront before God is: _____
One quality from 2 Peter 1:5-7 that needs to increase in my life is: _____
One specific step I will take this week is: _____
One person who can encourage or hold me accountable is: _____

DISCUSS AND PRAY

1. Where have you seen God already producing change in your life?
2. Which quality is hardest for you to add right now, and why?
3. How does 2 Peter 1:8 warn and encourage you about effectiveness and fruitfulness?
4. Pray: "Lord, make these qualities mine and increasing."

SUMMARY

Commitment TO Christ: develop practical knowledge and put it into action. Courage FOR Christ: develop self-discipline and keep trying until you get it right. Compassion LIKE Christ: develop love by strengthening relationships and worshiping God as He deserves.