

Steps to *Spiritual* Success
2 Peter 1.5-11

Second Peter begins with a resounding affirmation of the preciousness of our faith and the promises of our future with the Lord. By His power He has given us everything we need to live victorious Christian lives. Now Peter tells us things we can add to our faith...steps to *spiritual* success.

What we should add to our faith (5-7)

- Love
- Brotherly kindness
- Godliness
- Perseverance
- Self-control
- Knowledge
- Moral excellence

Why we should add to our faith (8-11)

- *We will NOT be useless or fruitless Christians (8)*
- *We will NOT be blind, short-sighted, forgetful Christians (9)*
- *We will have a confident, visible, steadfast faith (10)*
- *We will receive eternal rewards in the coming Kingdom (11)*



Digging Deeper

1. After beginning his letter with a resounding affirmation of all that God has done for us – a precious faith founded on Christ’s death on the cross for our sins and resurrection, and precious promises of His return to reign, Peter ended v4 with a statement of the ‘goal’ of all these blessings: That we might share in the divine nature – really *experience* new life with Christ, and escape from the corruption of the world. Because that is our goal, he lists seven *disciplines* we should add to our faith – in other words, these are qualities we must intentionally pursue in order to reach our spiritual goal (verses 5-7). Meditate on these seven qualities: Is the *order* significant? How are you ‘adding’ these qualities to your faith in your life?
2. Starting in v8, Peter lists positive results that we will experience in our lives if we add these qualities to our faith. Focus on v8: What does a Christian *avoid* if he or she follows vv.5-7? The sad truth is that many Christians remain *useless* and *fruitless* throughout their lives. What about you? Are you *useful* and *fruitful* for Christ?
3. Verse 9 adds some more things we can *avoid* by pursuing godly goals. Specifically, Peter says that if we lack the qualities (vv5-7), we are *blind*, *short-sighted*, and *forgetful*. How would you describe a *blind* Christian? (How do they live their lives?) A *short-sighted* Christian doesn’t see what is ahead. What *future* time do they fail to apprehend (see 3.3-14)? What does a *forgetful* Christian forget?
4. What benefits does Peter add in v10 that the growing Christian will experience? To “make certain” or “sure” means “to certify” – that is, to demonstrate to *others* through our lives our loyalty to Christ. Our pursuit of godliness makes our testimony more vibrant! It also keeps us from *stumbling*. Have you see this in your life? How?
5. As believers in Christ, we know that we will be in Christ’s coming kingdom. But what does v11 mean when it says our entrance “will be abundantly supplied”? Read 2 Tim. 2.12; Rev. 2.26-27; 3.21. These verses tell of heavenly rewards for faithful and fruitful lives lived for Christ on earth! Reflect on what it would feel like to hear Christ say to you, “Well done, good and faithful servant!”