

Giving All Diligence

The Progress of Growth

2 Peter 1:5-7

Last week, we saw what God has provided. As pointed out, Peter didn't begin with commands — he began with grace:

- A precious faith bestowed
- A plentiful grace multiplied
- A perfect provision granted
- Precious promises given

The Christian life begins with what God has done for us, not with what we do for God. And that is where Peter began. But he moves on from there because the grace we have received is meant to produce progress, to produce growth.

The beginning of verse 5 shows this:

“And beside this, giving all diligence...”

This phrase ties everything together. “Beside this” — for this very reason; in light of everything God has given...

This is the pattern of Scripture:

Philippians 2:12–13

¹² Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. ¹³ For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of *his* good pleasure.

1 Corinthians 15:10

¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which *was bestowed* upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

Grace does not mean we don't have to give effort to our walk with the Lord; it empowers our effort.

Peter now shows us the progress of spiritual growth.

I. THE CALL TO DILIGENT PURSUIT (v. 5A)

“And beside this, giving all diligence...”

A. The motivation of the call

“Beside this” (καὶ αὐτὸ τοῦτο)

1. As stated in the introduction, this points back to everything in verses 1-4
 - a) Because you have faith
 - b) Because you have grace
 - c) Because you have divine power
 - d) Because you have promises
- Therefore, give diligence.

B. The measure of the call

“Giving all diligence” (σπουδὴν πᾶσαν παρεισενέγκαντες)

1. “Giving” (παρεισενέγκαντες) — bringing alongside of, contributing effort. This is active participation.
2. “All” (πᾶσαν) — all, every kind of
3. “Diligence” — earnestness, zeal, intentional effort; no half-hearted Christianity
4. This is not casual growth. It is intentional,

purposeful, and whole-hearted.

- In other words, bring your whole effort alongside what God has already provided.

Hebrews 6:11

¹¹ And we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end:

Proverbs 4:23

²³ Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it *are* the issues of life.

C. The nature of the call

1. Peter is not teaching a works-based salvation. Salvation has already been established (vv. 1-4) and divine power has already supplied all things (v. 3).
2. This is not effort for salvation. It is effort because of salvation. This is seen in Ephesians 2:8-10.
 - a) Not of works (vv. 8-9)
 - b) Created unto good works (v. 10)

II. THE COURSE OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH (VV. 5B-7)

This is one of the most important growth passages in the New Testament. Peter lays out a progression, not simply random qualities of the believer.

A. The structure — “Add to... and to... and to...”

1. “Add” (ἐπιχορηγέω) — originally used of a wealthy patron supplying everything needed for a Greek chorus (called “tragedies”). The idea is to furnish fully, supply richly.

2. God has supplied salvation — now we are to supply spiritual maturity (Luke 17:7-10).

B. The “Ladder of Growth”

Each of these phrases uses the same construction: “ἐν δὲ τῇ... τῇν...” (“*and in... supply...*”). These are linked virtues, each building on the previous one.

1. “Faith” (πίστις) — the foundation

- a) This is the same faith from verse 1 — not mere belief, but saving trust in Christ.

Romans 5:1

¹ Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

- b) You don’t add faith (it’s already there) — you build on it.
- c) Everything begins here — there’s no growth without life; no progress without salvation.

Hebrews 11:6

⁶ But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

2. “Virtue” (ἀρετή) — moral excellence

- a) This is moral courage; excellence of character; a life that reflects God’s nature.
- b) God calls us to virtue (v. 3) so that we can pursue virtue (v. 5).

Philippians 4:8

⁸ 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.

3. "Knowledge" (γνῶσις) — practical discernment

- a) This is practical knowledge, not just facts or the gaining of information. It's discernment; understanding how to live rightly.

There's an important distinction in this word for "knowledge" and that of verses 2 and 3.

(1) Verses 2-3 uses ἐπίγνωσις — full, deep knowledge.

(2) Verse 5 uses γνῶσις — practical understanding.

(3) This is not just knowing God — it is knowing how to live rightly because you know God.

- b) False teachers claim knowledge — true believers must grow in real knowledge.

Colossians 1:9–10

⁹ For this cause we also, since the day we heard *it*, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; ¹⁰ That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;

4. "Temperance" (ἐγκράτεια) — self-control

- a) This is mastery over desires. Looking back to verse 4 and "the corruption that is in the world through lust," this becomes especially important.

- b) This is inward victory over sinful impulses.

1 Corinthians 9:25

²⁵ And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things...

Galatians 5:22–23

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, ²³ Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

5. “Patience” (ὑπομονή) — endurance

Steadfastness under pressure; remaining faithful over time

Hebrews 12:1

¹ Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

James 1:2–4

² My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; ³ Knowing *this*, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. ⁴ But let patience have *her* perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

6. “Godliness” (εὐσέβεια) — God-centered living

Same word as in verse 3 — this isn’t an external display of religion; it is a life rightly oriented toward God.

1 Timothy 4:7–8

⁷ But refuse profane and old wives’ fables, and exercise thyself *rather* unto godliness. ⁸ For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable

unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.

Titus 2:11–12

¹¹ For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, ¹² Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

7. “Brotherly kindness” (φιλαδελφία) — love for believers

This is affection for fellow believers and family love within the church.

Hebrews 13:1

¹ Let brotherly love continue.

1 Peter 1:22

²² Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, *see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:*

8. “Charity” (ἀγάπη) — Christlike love

This is the highest expression of love: sacrificial love that reflects Christ Himself.

John 13:34–35

³⁴ A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. ³⁵ By this shall all *men* know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

1 Corinthians 13:4–7

⁴ Charity suffereth long, *and* is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, ⁵ Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; ⁶

Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; ⁷
Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all
things, endureth all things.

C. This is progressive and cumulative. This is what spiritual maturity looks like.

III. THE CHARACTER OF TRUE GROWTH

A. It is deliberate

“Giving all diligence”

B. It is developed

“Add to...” (ἐπιχορηγήσατε) — growth is developed over time, supplied step-by-step.

C. It is deepening

Not just knowledge without character or love without truth, but a full, well-rounded life.

D. It is driven by grace

Never forget that this entire passage is built on:

“According as his divine power hath given unto us all things...”

Conclusion:

In the first four verses, the Bible shows us what God has given. Now, it shows us what we must pursue.

The Christian life is to be diligent, intentional, and progressing toward the goal of holiness.

God has given us faith, grace, power, and promises (vv. 1-4). Now the question is: Are you growing? Are you adding? Are you developing? Are you progressing?

Where there is true life, there will be visible growth.