

# 2 Peter 1:5-9

## Effective & Fruitful Knowledge

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27 September 2015

# Apply yourself

*5 Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge,*

- *Now for this very reason*
  - ▶ *His divine power has granted to us everything...*
  - ▶ *He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises*
  - ▶ *you may become partakers of the divine nature*
  - ▶ *[you have] escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust*
- *applying all diligence* – with haste or earnestness
  - ▶ 1:10,15 also talks about diligence/effort<sup>1</sup>
  - ▶ Realizing soon will be the resurrection of the body<sup>2</sup>
  - ▶ Doing so sincerely, not greedily for personal gain<sup>3</sup>
  - ▶ Alt. translation – make every effort

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<sup>1</sup>so Peter is interested in our urgency

<sup>2</sup>1:14

<sup>3</sup>2:3

# It all adds up

*5 Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge,*

- *in your faith supply moral excellence*

- ▶ Faith is the starting point, but faith without works is dead<sup>4</sup>
- ▶ *supply* also translated “add to” or “supplement”
- ▶ *moral excellence* – a virtuous course of thought, feeling and action<sup>5</sup>
  - ★ 1:3 – *...His own glory and excellence.*
  - ★ Philippians 4:8 – *...if there is any excellence...think on these things.*

- *in your moral excellence, knowledge*

- ▶ *knowledge* – not the “super knowledge” of vs.3
- ▶ 1 Peter 3:7 – *...live with your wives in an understanding way...*
- ▶ Understanding comes as grace works itself out in our lives

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<sup>4</sup>see James

<sup>5</sup>Blue Letter Bible (BLB)

## It all adds up (cont.)

*6 and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness, 7 and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love.*

- *self-control* – the virtue of one who masters his desires and passions<sup>6</sup>
- *perseverance* – a.k.a endurance or steadfastness
  - ▶ James 1:4 – *And let endurance have its perfect result...*
- *godliness* – piety towards God<sup>7</sup>
  - ▶ 1 Timothy 4:8 – *...godliness is profitable for all things...*
- *brotherly kindness* – brotherly love
- *love* – agape
  - ▶ 1 Corinthians 13:13 – *...the greatest of these is love.*

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<sup>6</sup>BLB

<sup>7</sup>Ibid.

# Le Proce

- Peter links each attribute to the previous one
  - ▶ Faith → virtue\* → understanding → self-control\* → endurance → godliness\* → brotherly love → agape\*
  - ▶ Similar list to the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22-23<sup>8</sup>
- Indicates a process, not something that happens instantly<sup>9</sup>
  - ▶ 1:4 – *...He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them **you may become** partakers of the divine nature...*
  - ▶ 3:18 – *but **grow** in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ....*
- Consistent with other passages of scripture
  - ▶ Romans 8:28-30 – *...God causes all things to work together for good...*
  - ▶ Romans 12:1-2 – *...be transformed by the renewing of your mind...*
  - ▶ 2 Corinthians 3:18 – *...we all...are being transformed...*

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<sup>8</sup>asterisk indicates overlap

<sup>9</sup>in other words, growth

## How to be truly useful

*8 For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

- *increasing* – to exist in abundance<sup>10</sup>, i.e. more than enough
  - ▶ 2 Corinthians 4:15 – *...so that the grace which is spreading to more and more people...*
  - ▶ 1 Thessalonians 3:12 – *...may the Lord cause you to increase and abound in love for one another...*
- *they render you neither useless nor unfruitful*
  - ▶ James 2:20 – *...faith without works is useless[.]*
  - ▶ Jude 1:12 – *...autumn trees without fruit, doubly dead, uprooted;*
- *the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ*
  - ▶ The “super knowledge” of vs.3
  - ▶ Does the knowledge come first, or the fruit?

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<sup>10</sup>BLB

## Blind spots

*9 For he who lacks these qualities is blind or short-sighted, having forgotten his purification from his former sins.*

- *For he who lacks these qualities*
  - ▶ James 2:17 – *Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself.*
  - ▶ Is it possible for a believer to lack these qualities?
- *blind or short-sighted*
  - ▶ Either way, cannot focus on the “true knowledge” of Jesus Christ
- *having forgotten his purification from his former sins*
  - ▶ “Sin is about pretending that something is true when in fact it is not. Idolatry is pretending that something is divine and worthy of our devotion when in fact it is not....repentance is all about choosing truth over deception.... repentance really is about coming to terms with who we really are.”<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>11</sup>Dr. Louis Newman

# The more you know

*9 For he who lacks these qualities is blind or short-sighted, having forgotten his purification from his former sins.*

- It's as though:
  - ▶ he's continuing in sin though he is dead to it<sup>12</sup>
  - ▶ he's walking in darkness even though he is the light<sup>13</sup>
  - ▶ he's turned from Grace to another gospel<sup>14</sup>
- The cycle of growth
  - ▶ 1:3 – true knowledge equips us for growth
  - ▶ 1:5-7 – faith in that knowledge produces godly qualities in us
  - ▶ 1:8 – the abundance of those qualities brings us back to true knowledge

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<sup>12</sup>Romans 6:1

<sup>13</sup>1 John 1:6-7

<sup>14</sup>Galatians 1:4