"Add To Your Faith" (2 Peter 1:5-7)
Faith

2 Peter 1:5-7 lists several characteristics necessary to the Christian's spiritual growth and fruitful maturity. Verse 5 notes we must work to attain these traits "with all diligence." The term "diligence" implies we must be "doing our best" to "eagerly" acquire these virtues. The verse also says we must "add" these qualities to our own character. The term "add" means, "to supply in copious measure, to provide beyond the need, to supply more than generously, providing more than is barely demanded" (Wuest). Thus, the idea is we should not just do the bare minimum with regard to these qualities, but go above and beyond in the acquisition of these necessities.

The first trait mentioned and basis of all the other traits is "faith." Looking at "faith" throughout the Scriptures, we notice it is…

Founded in the historical fact of Jesus Christ, not emotions. Even 2 Peter 1:16-21 makes the point Jesus is real and to be believed by His eyewitnesses.

Coupled with good works. A faith without works is a dead faith (see James 2:14-26).

Shown by our faithfulness. True faith exhibits itself in a life of obedience and faithfulness (Jude 3).

Never meant to be alone. 2 Peter 1 says we should "add to our faith." Does that sound like an approval of the ever-popular "faith-only" doctrine?" *JRW*

Why My Family Needs the Bible
Morality

Whether we admit it or not, nearly everyone has a sense of morality. If you believe murder is wrong, then you have established a value system, and you have at least one standard for morality. If you would be upset with someone who came into your home and stole your belongings, then you believe theft is wrong. Therefore, you have some sense of a value system.

Yet, many people are not always on the same page when it comes to morality. Some believe it is wrong to murder while others justify the murder of an unborn child. Some stand strongly opposed to adultery while a few married couples claim they have an "open relationship" and sex outside of marriage is fine. Some stand opposed to drunkenness while others embrace it "as long as it does not hurt anyone." Hitler's Nazi Germany practiced genocide as they exterminated various people groups in favor of their own "supreme race." The world stood in horror at such atrocities believing murder was wrong.

Here is the question. In those situations, who is right and who is wrong and why? How do we determine whether an action is proper or improper conduct? Is it just my opinion versus your opinion? Is it the government's job to dictate based on the views of the current, popular governing party? Or, is there a common standard and basis for our morals?

This question is extremely important for your families. How do we establish agreed moral expectations for our spouses without a common, moral basis? How can we establish a standard set of morals for our children without a basis for morality?

Proverbs 14:12 says, "There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death." Our own inner "gut feelings" about the correctness of behavior may not always be right and can lead to confusion. So, how can we establish a standard for right and wrong?

God's Word sets the precedent for moral and immoral behavior. Peter once wrote, "…His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness…" (2 Peter 1:3). God has shown how He expects us to live. In addition, God's Word has shown us the definition of sin. 1 John 3:4 says, "Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness."

Sin and immorality take place not when we go against someone's opinion. Sin occurs when we go against God's revealed will! Yet, if you are ignorant of God's Word, your basis for morality is merely self-derived and arbitrary! *JRW*

"Here is the question. In those situations, who is right and who is wrong and why? How do we determine whether an action is proper or improper conduct? Is it just my opinion versus your opinion? Or, is there a common standard and basis for our morals?"