

“A Fruitful Faith!”
2 Peter 1:5-8

Introduction:

1. This Morning, I Would Like Us To Head Back To 2 Peter!
 - Really Enjoyed Hearing About:
 - The Ministry Of The Hegdahls In India Last Week!
 - The Message From God’s Word - OT Picture Of Christ!
 - Need To Remind Ourselves The Purpose Of 2 Peter:
 - To Prepare Us For The False Teachings & The False Teachers That We Will Face As Christians!
 - The Best Way To Be Prepared:
 - Is To Keep Growing As A Christian!
 2. Living In Indiana, We Have All Seen What Happens:
 - **IE:** When A Field That Has Been Used For Farming One Year:
 - Is Then Allowed To Lie Fallow The Next Year!
 - It Remains Unplowed!
 - It Remains Unseeded!
 - It Remains Unfruitful!
 - Sure, There Might Be A Few Stalks Of Corn That Grow Out Of Seeds Planted The Previous Year!
 - But The Field Itself Is Not Nearly As Productive As One That Is Actively & Diligently Farmed & Cultivated!
 - There May Be Many Good Reasons To Let A Field Lie Fallow!
 - To Give The Ground A Break!
 - To Allow Nutrients To Be Replaced!
 - To Prevent An Oversupply Of A Crop!
 - But, For The Christian, There Is Never A Good Reason:
 - For Our Faith / Heart To Lie Fallow!
 - To Be Unfruitful Or Unproductive!
 - John 15:16 - “Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you!”
 3. Are You Bringing Forth Fruit As A Christian?
 - In Your Faith & Life & Walk With Jesus Christ?
 - If Not, Your Heart & Faith Is Fallow!
 - “Barren & Unfruitful!”
 - And This Is Not The Way It Should Be!
 - And You Are Not Prepared To Face The Falsehoods That Will Seek To Draw You Away!
 - Peter Addresses This Issue:
 - In 1:5-8 - “And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; / And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; / And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. / For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ!”
 - In Order For You To Keep Growing & Bearing Fruit:
 - There Must Be A Cultivation Of Christian Character In Your Life!
 - You Must Cultivate Christian Character!
 - What Is It Going To Take?
1. ***A Christian Diligence!***
 - 1:5a - “And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith!”
 - **IE:** Ask Any Farmer - Farming Is Hard Work! And In Order To Be Successful, You Need To Be Diligent Every Single Day! See Their Diligence Especially When They Are Planting / Harvesting Well Into The Night!
 - To Cultivate Christian Character & Grow:

- It Is Going To Take Diligence On Your Part!
- What Is The Motive For Our Diligence?
 - The First 3 Words Of Verse 5 - “And Beside This” - Point Us Back To Verse 4:
 - “Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust!”
 - Christians Need To Remember Some Things:
 - Because Of & Through Jesus Christ:
 - We Are Free From The Nature Of The World!
 - That Is Corrupt & Soul-Destroying!
 - We Are Sharing In The Nature Of The Lord!
 - This Is Why We Need To Cultivate Christian Character!
 - Because Of All Christ Has Done / Is Doing In Us!
- What Is The Meaning Of Our Diligence?
 - Another One Of Our Key Words In 2 Peter - Diligence!
 - 1st Of 3 Times In These 3 Short Chapters!
 - One Meaning - To Make Haste!
 - Another Meaning - Here - To Be Earnest / To Give Forth A Passionate, Heart-Felt Effort!
 - We Are To Cultivate Christian Character:
 - Not In A Lazy, Lackadaisical Way! But In A Passionate, Earnest & Fervent Way!
 - How Fervent Are We?
 - When It Comes To Christian Growth?
 - Take It Or Leave It?
 - Romans 12:11 - “Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord!”
 - Serving The Lord & Bearing Fruit Is Our Business!
 - Don’t Be Slothful! Be Diligent! Every Day!
- What Is The Measure Of Our Diligence?
 - “Giving All Diligence!”
 - 1 Corinthians 9:24 - “Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain!”
 - This Kind Of Diligence Needs To Be In Place In Every Area Of Our Lives!
 - Often In Our Work - Not Just In Our Work!
 - Often In Our Activities - Not Just In Our Activities!
 - How Much Diligence To You Give To The Lord?
 - And The Things That Pertain To The Lord?
- There Needs To Be Diligence!
 - If Your Faith & Heart Is To Grow & Not Lie Fallow!
 - Is There This Christian Diligence In Your Life?

2. ***A Christian Development!***

- 1:5b-7 - “Add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; / And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; / And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity!”
 - Find In These Verses:
 - The Root Of The Christian Life - Faith!
 - The Fruit Of The Christian Life - 7 Traits
 - These Traits Are What Need To Be Developed In Your Life!
 - The “Christian Crop!”
 - Must Be Diligent To Cultivate Each One!
 - To Be Truly Productive / Fruitful!
- The Root Of The Christian Life!
 - Faith Is Where It Starts!
 - Without The Root - There Can Be No Fruit!
 - Points Us Back To 1:1 - Peter Is Writing To: “Them that have obtained like precious faith with

- us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ!”
 - Starts With Faith! Salvation! Being Born Again!
 - Otherwise, Your Life Before God Is Fruitless!
- But, Once You Have This Saving Faith In Your Life:
 - It Is Not The End Of It All! There Must Be Fruit!
 - James Is Clear On This - 2:17 - “Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone!” / 2:20 - “But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?” / 2:26 - “For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also!”
- There Will Be & Must Be Fruit!
- The Fruit Of The Christian Life!
 - 7 Traits / Characteristics That Grow Out Of Christian Faith!
 - Translate: “Add” - “Supply” / “To” - “In”
 - 1 - “Supply In Your Faith Virtue!”
 - “This Faith Is The Seedbed Out Of Which Christian Character Grows!” (D. Edmond Hiebert)
 - If You Have Christian, Saving Faith!
 - Then You Must Diligently Cultivate A Christian Character As Well!
 - “Virtue” - The Good & Moral & Christlike Life That Comes From Being A Christian!
 - 2 Corinthians 5:17 - “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new!”
 - Are You Personally / Diligently Cultivating Christian Character In Your Life?
 - 2 - “Supply In Your Virtue Knowledge!”
 - You Must Diligently Cultivate A Christian Comprehension!
 - “Knowledge” - To Grow In Your Understanding Of Truth & Righteousness!
 - 3 - “Supply In Your Knowledge Temperance!”
 - You Must Diligently Cultivate A Christian Control!
 - “Temperance” - Control - Not Just A Self Controlled, But A Spirit Controlled Life!
 - 4 - “Supply In Your Temperance Patience!”
 - You Must Diligently Cultivate A Christian Constancy!
 - “Patience” - To Remain Under / To Endure!
 - 5 - “Supply In Your Patience Godliness!”
 - You Must Diligently Cultivate A Christian Consecration!
 - “Godliness” - Fulfilling Your Duties To The Lord / An “Attitude Of Reverence That Seeks To Please God In All Things!” (H)
 - 6 - “Supply In Your Godliness Brotherly Kindness!”
 - You Must Diligently Cultivate A Christian Care!
 - “Brotherly Kindness” - Philadelphia - A Sincere Love & Care For Fellow Christians!
 - 7 - “Supply In Your Brotherly Kindness Love!”
 - You Must Diligently Cultivate A Christian Charity!
 - “Love” - Agape - 1 John 3:18 - “My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth!”
- These 7 Traits Are But A Part Of The Same Fruit!
 - Interrelated! Inside Each Other!
 - **IE:** Just Like The Beautiful Rose Blossom Is But The Full & Final Display Of Its Seed!
 - **IE:** Like The Russian Nesting Doll - The Matryoshka Doll - Set Of Dolls Of Decreasing Sizes Placed One Inside The Other! Here:
 - From The Small Seed Of Faith!
 - To The Full Bloom Of Love!
 - It Grows Bigger & Brighter & Fruitful!
- But How Do You Cultivate This Fruit?
 - How Can You “Supply” It?
- The Source Of The Christian Life!

- Jesus Christ Is The Source Of What We Need To Supply!
- Every Single One Of These Traits:
 - Can Be Found In The Savior!
- We Need His:
 - Virtue / Knowledge / Temperance / Patience / Godliness / Brotherly Kindness / Charity!
- Example:
 - Need To Cultivate Patience?
- Hebrews 12:1-3 - "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, / Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. / For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds!"
 - Jesus Is Not Only Our Example Of Patience!
 - But Also Our Enabler / Equipper Of Patience!
- Need:
 - Admission / Awareness / Asking / Action!
- There Needs To Be This Kind Of Christian Development!
 - If Your Faith & Heart Is To Grow & Not Lie Fallow!

3. ***A Christian Duty!***

- 1:8 - "For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ!"
 - What Are Your Duties As A Christian?
 - How Can You Fulfill Them?
 - If You Are Diligently Cultivating Christian Character & Growing, 1:5 Offers Encouraging Words! You Are Fulfilling Your Duties To The Lord!
 - "If These Things Be In You & Abound!"
- Your Duty Of Faithfulness Is Fulfilled!
 - "Neither Barren!"
 - The Fruit Of Christian Character Shows That:
 - You Are Not Barren!
 - Not Idle! Not Lazy!
 - But Faithful To The Lord!
 - This Is Your Duty!
 - Is This Your Desire?
 - "I Want To Be Faithful / I Want To Be True / I Want To Be Faithful / In All That I Do!"
- Your Duty Of Fruitfulness Is Fulfilled!
 - "Nor Unfruitful!"
 - The Fruit Of Christian Character Shows That:
 - You Are Not Unfruitful!
 - But Fruitful / Productive / Useful For The Lord!
 - This Is Your Duty!
 - Is This Your Desire?
- Your Duty Of Focus Is Fulfilled!
 - "In The Knowledge Of Our Lord Jesus Christ!"
 - The Fruit Of Christian Character Shows That:
 - You Want To Know & Are Getting To Know More About Your Precious Savior! The Lord Jesus Christ!
 - This Is Your Duty!
 - This Is Even The Ultimate Goal Of Your Growth!
 - Is This Your Desire?
- Only When You Are Cultivating This Fruit Of Christian Character:
 - Can You Even Begin To Fulfill These Duties To The Lord!

- By Being:
- Faithful! Fruitful! Focused! Upon Him!

Conclusion:

1. How Fruitful Is Your Faith?
 - It Is Not Going To Grow On Its Own!
 - In A Heart That Is Fallow & Content To Stay That Way!
 - It Must Be Cultivated!
 - Through Christian Diligence!
 - Through Christian Development!
 - Through Christian Duty!
2. But Never Forget That Jesus Christ Is The Source Of What We Need To Supply!
 - Go To Him! Trust In Him! Abide In Him!
 - John 15:4 - "Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. / I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing!"

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