



# Nurturing Faithfulness

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*(2 Peter 1:3-10)*

## Choosing Jesus

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- C** — Choosing Jesus
- H** — Holding to His Word
- O** — Obeying His Commands
- O** — Opening Your Life to Community
- S** — Serving the Kingdom
- I** — Investing in Others
- N** — Nurturing Faithfulness
- G** — Glorifying God

## Review

This is the seventh lesson in our Jesus Journey series. The next stage of our Jesus Journey...

### **N - Nurturing Faithfulness**

Choose to persevere in your faith, staying committed to Christ through all challenges and seasons.

#### **(2 Peter 1:3-9) —**

His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, <sup>4</sup> by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.

<sup>5</sup> For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, <sup>6</sup> and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, <sup>7</sup> and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. <sup>8</sup> For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup> For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins.

<sup>10</sup> Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall.

#### **STORY:** LAWNMOWER BREAKING DOWN

*I started off great, but hit a snag and didn't finish*

#### **NOTE:** The enemy will do everything he can to keep you from being faithful.

# ◆ Introduction

## Nurture Faithfulness

- Nurture — “to care for and encourage the growth or development of.”
- Faithfulness — “unswerving adherence to” choosing Jesus — CHOOSING JESUS EVERY DAY AND EVERY WAY

● **NOTE:** We won't accidentally be faithful.

## The Jesus Journey is a Marathon

- (Luke 14:28–30) — For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and *count the cost*, whether he has enough to complete it? <sup>29</sup> Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, <sup>30</sup> saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’

## The Jesus Journey Requires Much Endurance

*(Things we must endure...)*

### THE FIGHT AGAINST SIN

- (Romans 7:21–24) — So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. <sup>22</sup> For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, <sup>23</sup> but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. <sup>24</sup> Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?

### TRIALS & TESTING

- (James 1:2–4) — Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, <sup>3</sup> for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. <sup>4</sup> And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

## THE LORD'S DISCIPLINE

- (Hebrews 12:6–7) — For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.” <sup>7</sup> It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline?

## PERSECUTION

- (2 Timothy 3:12) — Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,
- (John 15:20) — Remember the word that I said to you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you...
- (Matthew 5:11–12) — “Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

## HARDSHIP

- (John 16:33) — I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. *In the world you will have tribulation.* But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

## SPIRITUAL WARFARE

- (Ephesians 6:12) — For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

- **NOTE:** We have to nurture faithfulness so we don't fizzle out when the going gets tuff.

# ◆ #1 — God’s Power is the Root of Faithfulness

(Verse 3) —

*His divine power* has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness  
...

**We already have everything we need!**

- “*Has granted all things*”

**We must rely on God’s power (and promise)**

- “*Follow Me to Me and I will make you...*”

● **What does the Bible say about our need for God’s power?**

- (John 15:5) — I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, *for apart from me you can do nothing*.
- (Philippians 2:13) — ... it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.
- (Philippians 1:6) — And I am sure of this, that *he who began a good work in you* will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

- **NOTE:** Only the Power of God can make us into what God desires us to be (we can do nothing on our own).

## ◆ #2 — Knowing God is the Doorway to Faithfulness

(Verse 3) —

His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through *the knowledge of him* who called us to his own glory and excellence...

### The Pursuit of Knowing God is Everything!

- Knowing God gives us access to the power He has made available to us
- (John 17:3) — And this is eternal life, *that they know you*, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.
- (Philippians 3:7–8) — But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. <sup>8</sup> Indeed, *I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord*. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ...
- The Jesus Journey - it's a journey of knowing Jesus

### How do we Know God?

*Be faithful to the Jesus Journey (with prayerful dependence on the Holy Spirit)...*

- *Holding to His Word* — Through His Word I learn Who He is, and what His will is. Then...
- *Obedying His Commands* — Through obeying, He reveals more of Himself.
  - (Luke 8:18) — *Take care then how you hear*, for to the one who has, more will be given, and from the one who has not, even what he thinks that he has will be taken away.
- *Opening Your Life to Community / Serving the Kingdom / Investing in Others*
  - ▶ Accountability & Support: (Colossians 3:16) — Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, *teaching and admonishing* one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.
  - ▶ (Hebrews 10:24–25) — And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, <sup>25</sup> *not neglecting to meet together*, as is the habit of

some, but *encouraging one another*, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

- **NOTE:** Knowing Jesus should be the passion of our lives  
*(Think of Moses at the tent of meeting and Joshua)*
- **QUESTION:** Are you pursuing to know Jesus? How serious are you?



## #3 — Being Like Jesus is the Hope of Faithfulness

(Verse 3-4) —

<sup>3</sup> His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him *who called us* to his own glory and excellence... <sup>4</sup> by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become *partakers of the divine nature*, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.

- *Who called us* — God has called us to be like Jesus (*righteousness and holiness*)
- *He has granted his precious and very great promises* — *So that through them* — Through God's precious and very great promises, we may become like Jesus — *you may become partakers of the divine nature*
- *Escape the corruption of the world because of sinful desire* - Helping us become more and more free of our sinful desires
- **THE POINT:** We want to be growing ever deeper in our knowledge of Jesus, so that we will become more and more like Jesus and less like the world.

### ● What does the Bible say about being like Jesus?

- (Ephesians 4:22–24) — ...put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, <sup>23</sup> and... be renewed in the spirit of your minds, <sup>24</sup> and... *put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.*
- (Romans 12:1) — I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, *holy and acceptable to God*, which is your spiritual worship.



## #4 — The Stepping Stones of Faithfulness

(Verse 5-7) —

For this very reason, make *every effort* to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, <sup>6</sup> and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, <sup>7</sup> and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love.

- *For this very reason* — Since we have everything we need through God’s power, and He has called us to become more like Jesus...
- *Make every effort* — (This means: a vigorous or determined attempt - with strenuous physical or mental exertion.)

### We should be growing in these areas:

- Faith - is the starting point, and should be growing stronger and stronger
- Virtue - “moral excellence”
- Knowledge - the knowledge of God (Truth)
- Self-control - “to exercise complete control over one’s desires and actions.”
- Steadfastness - “firm and unwavering” - “capacity to continue to bear up under difficult circumstances”
- Godliness - It is a combination of two words, the word for ‘good’ and the word for ‘worship’. True (good) worship. Godliness is an active, practical quality that reflects a heart oriented toward pleasing God and living in holiness
- Brotherly Affection & Love - The end result of knowing Jesus is love

### These qualities are Fruit of the Spirit (but we strive for them)

- (Galatians 5:22–23) — But the *fruit of the Spirit* is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

## ◆ #5 — Fruitfulness is the Result of Faithfulness

(Verse 8-9) —

<sup>8</sup> For if these qualities are yours and are *increasing*, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup> For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins.

- We want to have these qualities and we want them increasing! So we can be fruitful.
- (John 15:5) — I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, *he it is that bears much fruit*, for apart from me you can do nothing.
- **NOTE:** This verse would suggest it's possible to “know Jesus” yet still be ineffective and live an unfruitful life.

## ◆ #6 — Diligence is Required for Faithfulness

(Verse 10) —

Therefore, brothers, be all the more *diligent* to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities *you will never fall*.

- *Be all the more diligent to confirm your calling* - (vs 5 - *Make every effort!*)
- *You will never fall* - (because you'll be acting on what God has provided - vs.3)

## ◆ Closing — A True Disciple Strives to Finish Well

(2 Timothy 4:6-8) —

For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. <sup>7</sup> I have *fought the good fight*, I have *finished the race*, I have *kept the faith*. <sup>8</sup> Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

**This is a marathon - Don't fizzle out when the going gets tuff.**

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### **N - Nurturing Faithfulness**

Choose to persevere in your faith, staying committed to Christ through all challenges and seasons.

#### ● QUESTIONS:

- If someone were to make an assessment of your day to day life, are you diligently nurturing your faithfulness to Jesus?
- What changes needed to take place in your life right now to move in the direction that God wants for you?