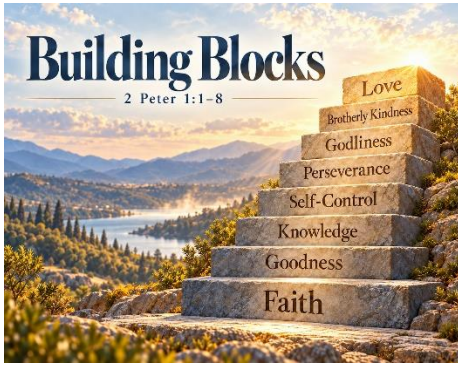




Building Blocks – Part 2

(2 Peter 1:1–8) Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who through the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ have received a faith as precious as ours: {2} Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. {3} His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. {4} Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

{5} For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; {6} and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; {7} and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. {8} For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Saved by Grace — Growing by Grace

God has given us everything we need

Grace comes before effort

Make every effort

God works, therefore we work

The sailor and the wind

Faith is the foundation of everything

(Hebrews 11:6a) And without faith it is impossible to please God...

(Proverbs 3:5) Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;

From faith to goodness

(2 Peter 1:5a) For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness...

(James 2:14) What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him?

(James 2:17) In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

Faith that never changes anything

(John 14:15) "If you love me, you will obey what I command.

Goodness is faith becoming visible

(Philippians 1:27a) Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ...

From goodness to knowledge

(2 Peter 1:5) For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge;

(Proverbs 14:12) There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death.

Good intentions need truth

(Philippians 1:9) And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight,

(Philippians 1:10) so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ,

Knowledge of God's word

(Psalm 119:105) Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

(John 17:17) Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.

(Romans 12:2) Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Goodness needs knowledge

From knowledge to self-control

Paul knew this struggle

(Romans 7:15) I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do.

What is self-control?

(Galatians 5:22–23) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, {23} gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

“I will not be mastered”

(1 Corinthians 6:12) “Everything is permissible for me”—but not everything is beneficial. “Everything is permissible for me”—but I will not be mastered by anything.

Christian freedom

(John 8:34) Jesus replied, “I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin.

(Romans 6:14) For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace.

The relationship: knowledge must become discipline

From self-control to perseverance

The difference between a moment and a life

Scripture constantly calls us to endure

(Matthew 24:13) but he who stands firm to the end will be saved.

(Galatians 6:9) Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

(Hebrews 10:36) You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised.

(James 1:3) because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance.

(James 1:4) Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

Why does God allow the struggle to continue?

The gymnasium of grace

(Romans 5:3–4) Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; {4} perseverance, character; and character, hope.

Self-control must become perseverance

From perseverance to godliness

What is godliness?

(Psalm 139:1) O LORD, you have searched me and you know me.

Practicing the presence of God

(1 Corinthians 10:31) So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.

Perseverance needs godliness

From godliness to brotherly kindness

(1 John 4:20) If anyone says, “I love God,” yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen.

Godliness must walk out the church door

The “one anothers” of scripture

(John 13:34) “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.

(Romans 12:10) Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.

(Galatians 5:13) You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love.

(Galatians 6:2) Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

(Ephesians 4:32) Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

(1 Thessalonians 5:11) Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

(Colossians 3:13) Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

(James 5:16) Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

The church as a family

(Romans 12:10) Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.

Why brotherly kindness follows godliness

From brotherly kindness to love

(Colossians 3:14) And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

(1 Corinthians 13:13) And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

(1 John 4:8) Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

What Biblical love is — and isn't

(John 15:13) Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.

Love does not mean approving everything

(1 Corinthians 13:6) Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.

(John 1:14) The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Love as the culmination of the entire chain

The vertical and the horizontal

(Matthew 22:37–39) Jesus replied: “ ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ {38} This is the first and greatest commandment. {39} And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’

Notice what love requires from everything before it

And love, in turn, strengthens everything before it

(Galatians 5:6) For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.

This is not a ladder; it is a living organism

Compare Peter's list with the fruit of the spirit

(Galatians 5:22–23) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, {23} gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

Compare Peter's list with the character of Jesus

(Hebrews 12:2) Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

(John 8:29) The one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what pleases him.”

(John 13:1) It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love.

The goal is not virtue; the goal is Christ

(Romans 8:29) For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

So where are you in Peter's list?

Don't try to produce the fruit without the root

(John 15:4) Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

(John 15:4) Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

Abide and strive

The whole movement of verses 5–7

(2 Peter 1:8) For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure...

Major revelation! Faith expresses itself through love!

(Galatians 5:6b) ... The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.