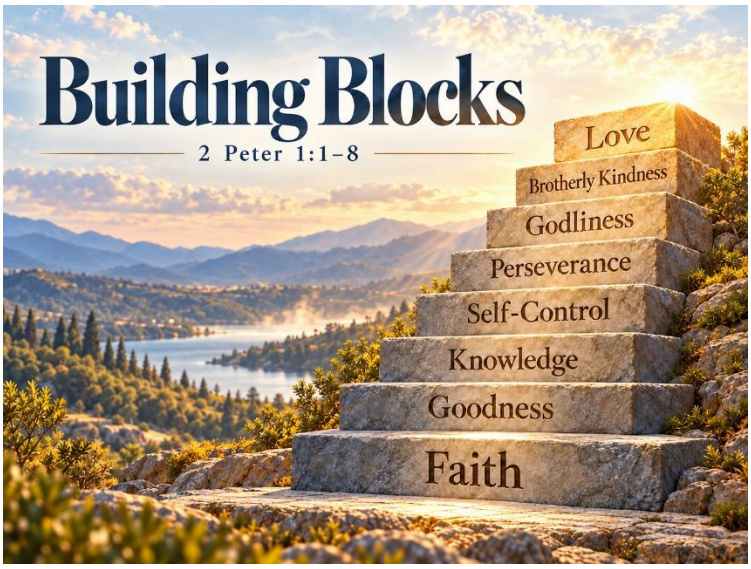
Building Blocks – Part 6

(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.**



Make every effort

From faith to goodness

From goodness to knowledge

From knowledge to self-control

From self-control to perseverance

From perseverance to godliness

From godliness to brotherly kindness

From brotherly kindness to love

Abide and strive

Faith expresses itself through love!

Christianity begins with faith

(2 Peter 1:1) 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:

(Romans 3:27) Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded. On what principle? On that of observing the law? No, but on that of faith.

Faith looks away from itself

Genuine faith does not remain alone

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

Faith "expresses itself"

Why does faith express itself as love?

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

(1 John 4:19) We love because he first loved us.

We do not love in order to be loved

(Romans 5:8) But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

The cross creates a new kind of person

Forgiven people forgive people

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

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

This helps us understand Peter's entire list

Love is not an optional advanced course

(1 Corinthians 13:1–3) If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. {2} If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. {3} If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.

Truth without love becomes harsh

(1 Corinthians 8:1) Now about food sacrificed to idols: We know that we all possess knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up.

(Ephesians 4:15) Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ.

Faith expresses itself through love only when love costs us

(Matthew 5:44) But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,

Love becomes evidence of faith

(John 13:35) By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

The Christian life is not a reservoir

(Matthew 10:8) Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.

(2 Corinthians 1:3–4) Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, {4} who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.

Peter's list describes grace moving through a person

(Galatians 2:20) I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Love is the destination because Christ is the destination

(Ephesians 5:2) and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

The cross is both our salvation and our pattern

(Philippians 2:5) Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:

(Philippians 2:8) And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death— even death on a cross!

Jesus washed feet

(John 13:5) After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

(John 13:15) I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.

Love moves downward

(Mark 10:43) Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant,

Love is the death of self-centered christianity

(Matthew 16:25) For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it.

Love redefines spiritual maturity

(1 Corinthians 13:2) If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.

Love is patient

(1 Corinthians 13:4) Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.

(2 Peter 3:9) The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

Love is kind

Love "keeps no record of wrongs"

(1 Corinthians 13:5) It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.

(Matthew 5:44) But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,

(Matthew 5:45a) that you may be sons of your Father in heaven…

Love is the family resemblance of heaven

(1 John 4:7) Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.

(1 John 4:12) No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

Love is where theology becomes incarnate

This is what spiritual maturity really looks like

Now we are ready for verse 8

(2 Peter 1:8) 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.