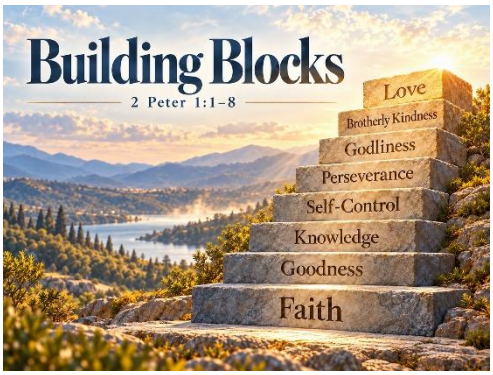
Building Blocks – Part 5



(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
Faith is the foundation of everything
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

(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.

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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.