Introduction

Dave Thomas, the founder of Wendy’s described his faith as a “Roll up your sleeves Christianity.”

I believe that Peter was a roll up your sleeves Christian too.

Our faith, if it is genuine, must grow.

There is a part that God must do, and only he can do. And there is a part that we must do and only we can do.

“Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.” Philippians 2:12-13

“Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life has set me free from the law of sin and death.

Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation—but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it. For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.” Romans 8:1-2, 12-13

That is exactly what we see in II Peter 1:3-11.

- God has given us everything we need to grow as Christians. Verses 3-4
- Now put it into practice in your life. Verses 5-11

I. A Growing Faith. Verses 5-7

Make every effort! Make it a priority like an athlete in training.

Add to your faith these 8 qualities.

- Faith – It is the foundational Christian virtue.
- Goodness – moral excellence.
- Knowledge – practical wisdom.
- Self-control – controlling our passions.
- Perseverance – endurance. The ability to hold up under trial.
- Godliness – becoming a person who pleases God in all areas.
- Brotherly kindness – love for one another in the body of Christ.
• Love – Agape love. A Spirit given love by which we treat all people with kindness and benevolence. It is the crown of the Christian virtues. I Corinthians 13:13

How do we work at these?

• Surrender to God.
• Be in the Word and prayer.
• Be in fellowship with one another.
• Be obedient and serve.
• Share your faith.
• Go and make disciples.

II. A Fruitful Life. Verses 8-9

“How you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive.”

• Ineffective means idle or uninvolved.
• Unproductive means fruitless.

“I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”

“This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.” John 15:5, 8

What kind of fruit is Jesus talking about?

• A changed life – I John 2:3-6
• The fruit of the Spirit – Galatians 5:22-23
• Being a witness – Acts 1:8
• Making disciples – II Timothy 2:2
• Love – John 13:34-35
• Good deeds – James 1:27
• Generous giving – II Corinthians 9:6-8
• Prayer – Colossians 4:2-4

III. A Rich Welcome into Heaven. Verses 10-11

“Be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure.”

If you are growing in your faith and bearing fruit, it is an evidence that you are saved.

We experience the assurance of our salvation.

We will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
Conclusion

Do you want to be welcomed into the eternal kingdom with great joy? Then work at your faith.

Do you want to bear fruit for God? Then abide in Christ and get involved in ministering to others.

Do you want to have an assurance of your salvation? Then keep growing in Christ.