

TAKEAWAY



BELIEFS MATTER

2 Peter 1:5-11 – Part Two

INTRODUCTION

Running through Peter's words to early Christians in 2 Peter, is the constant emphasis on truth and the idea that what you believe matters because it shapes how you live. Throughout his letter, Peter gives us a glimpse of what the Christian life should look like.

SHARE

- Share the top three character traits that you appreciate in others.
- What ambitions do you have for the rest of your life? (*Note that answers could vary wildly depending on age!*)

READ

2 Peter 1:5-11

DISCUSS

Oprah Winfrey once said: "*You become what you believe.*" Do you think that is really true? In what ways do you see beliefs shaping how people live, either positively or negatively, in everyday life?

Peter lists eight things to 'make every effort to add to your faith' in verse 5 – what do you think each of them mean?

Other worldviews say growth leads to reward, while Christianity says grace leads to growth. Which way of thinking do you find more natural, and why?

Peter says "make every effort" twice. How does Peter's description of effort differ from the idea of earning God's approval? Why do you think that distinction matters? Why does it matter that we don't earn things with God?

Looking at the list (faith → goodness → knowledge → self-control → perseverance → godliness → mutual affection → love), which one stands out to you most right now, and why? What changes would you see in yourself if you grew in these character traits?

These virtues appear to be deliberately ordered. What problems might arise if we try to jump ahead or rearrange the order? Peter puts faith first and love last. What do you think it means that the Christian life begins with trust and ends with unconditional love?

Mutual affection is described as essential, not optional. What helps a Christian community actually enjoy one another — and what makes that difficult?

Peter says these qualities keep us from being "ineffective and unproductive." What do you think a "fruitful" Christian life looks like in ordinary, non-dramatic terms?

PRAY

TRY OUT

- Do you have any rhythms that support a lifestyle that overflows with these virtues (e.g. a bible reading, sabbath, prayer, community...)? If so, how can you strengthen those rhythms? If not, in what way(s) can you establish rhythms to support a growing faith?
- Take some time to reflect on the passage: what specific virtue from verses 5-7 do you think you've grown in during the time you've been a Christian? Which would you like to grow in right now? Just like a food log, mark and note where you see these seven qualities outwork in your daily life. What do your findings suggest? Are there any changes you want to make?