


[illegible]

Key Categories & Text	
Head 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How is what I know increasing?</li> </ul>
Heart 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How is my worship being transformed?</li> </ul>
Hands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How am I applying what I know and how I am worshipping in order to serve those around me? (i.e., family, church, coworkers, neighbors, etc.)</li> </ul>
Biblical Pericope {2 Peter 1:5-11   ESV}	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>5</b> For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge,</li> <li>• <b>6</b> and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness,</li> <li>• <b>7</b> and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love.</li> <li>• <b>8</b> For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.</li> <li>• <b>9</b> For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins.</li> <li>• <b>10</b> Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall.</li> <li>• <b>11</b> For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.</li> </ul>

# Life Group Discussion Guide

## Introduction:

*Life Group Leaders, use pages 1968-1969 in the Moody Bible Commentary for additional help for this lesson. Throughout this pericope, we will see there is joy in obedience to God through Christ Jesus. Consider the passage and questions in advance so that your group can have a helpful and productive meeting.*

When was the last time that you had to cultivate something? If cultivation is the process of preparing something for use, then we can cultivate many things such as plants, land, an environment/atmosphere, or an experience. If you feel as if you haven't cultivated anything, why is that?

Would you say that you have had to cultivate your own growth in Christ? Or does God take care of that? Why do you answer in this way? (Leaders, consider this statement by Thomas Constable to help lead your group in understanding - "Having established believers' basic adequacy through God's power in us and promises to us [1:3-4], Peter next reminded his readers of their responsibility to cultivate their own Christian growth. He did so in order to correct any idea that they needed to do nothing more because they possessed adequate resources.")

## Head:

- What does Peter mean when he writes in verse 5 "For this very reason..." (Remember to consider the preceding verses and anything from last week's sermon or LG lesson.) Why is it important for Peter to write this connecting piece of information? How does this help you understand the importance of verses 3-4 to verses 5-11?

- What does Peter mean when he writes that the Christian should "supplement" (or cultivate) their faith with the seven qualities that he lists (virtue, knowledge, self-control, steadfastness, godliness, brotherly affection, and love)? How do each of these qualities contribute to the overall formation of the Christian? Do any of these qualities seem out of place? Why? Do any of these qualities seem like common sense? Why?

- Let's take a little closer look at these seven qualities.

- 1) **Virtue** is uprightness of character cultivated through obedience to God.
- 2) **Knowledge** refers to acquired information, especially information that is practical and that has been revealed in the Word of God.
- 3) **Self-control** refers to a disciplined life that exhibits moderation by controlling one's desires and passions.
- 4) **Steadfastness** is the need to keep moving forward in holiness despite of adversity and/or temptation.
- 5) **Godliness** refers to behavior that reflects the character of God.
- 6) **Brotherly affection** is thoughtful consideration of fellow believers.
- 7) **Love** (agape) is the highest form of love that seeks the welfare of others and is exhibited to all people.

# Life Group Discussion Guide

- Of these seven qualities, which are easy to understand, which are not easy to understand? Why? What are practical ways to incorporate these qualities into the life of a Christian?

- Peter warns his readers to not neglect adding these qualities to their faith, otherwise they will be blind and forget their sins have been taken care of through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. What other verse(s) does this recall to your mind or correspond with? (Consider Romans 6:11; Titus 2:14; James 2:17, 26; 1 John 1:7.)

- Peter writes that his readers should "be all the more diligent to confirm (their) calling and election, for if (they) practice these qualities (they) will never fall." Is Peter saying they will never sin again? Why do you say that (consider 1 John 1:5-2:6)? If Peter is not saying they will never sin, what is he saying? Why is it important to work out your salvation with fear and trembling (consider Philippians 2:12-13)?

## **Heart:**

- Of the seven qualities, what is the hardest for you to add into your life? Why do you think that is? Of those seven qualities, what would you like to incorporate into your life? Why is that?

- How would you say you are doing at working out your salvation to ensure your calling and election? Why is it important to our church and to this group that you practice growing in your faith and living out all that God has for you?

## **Hands:**

- Why should you encourage one another to grow in faith by pursuing these seven qualities? How is it loving to help encourage one another to do so? What happens when we do not help one another grow? (Consider the fact that both individually and corporately when we do not pursue growth, the Church's vitality and productivity will diminish and will not glorify God.)

- This week, consider the seven qualities that Peter calls Christians to add to their faith. How will you practically pursue supplementing your faith with one, or all, of these qualities? Make a plan now and share it with the group for **application** and **accountability**. Group members, ensure that you are checking on each member throughout next week for how each person is doing.

## **Conclusion:**

- As we conclude, is there anything from Pastor Kevin's sermon that stood out to you that we have not yet discussed? Why do you think that particular thing stood out to you?

## **Pray:**

- Is there anything that you can pray for as a result of today's passage?
- Spend time praying for one another's needs and requests.