

STAYING CHALLENGED!

2 Peter 1:1-11

INTRODUCTION: We will start today looking at a life lived with full on commitment to living life to the full. Our example will be a man named Liviu Librescu. Liviu desired with all his heart to be an engineer and as a youth, a man and even into his elder years he gave himself totally to being the best engineering professor he could be.

I. ONE LITTLE THING!

Learning to live an exceptional, sacrificial life marked by our diligence to excellence and generous commitments is a goal that should continue throughout our lives. 2 Peter 3:9-14. Our Lord is returning to this earth and that knowledge and belief should make a huge difference in the way we chose to live our lives. We are all called as believers in Jesus Christ to live lives of diligence. 2 Peter 1:5-11. We are to be motivated because our Lord is returning to this world to set up an everlasting kingdom.

II. THE PURPOSE OF DILIGENCE!

Diligence fits into Peter's overall theme: 2 Peter 1:3-4. Peter stresses two primary focal points here: First is the idea that every follower of Jesus Christ has been given everything we need that pertains to living a godly life for God's glory! Second, we can find the supplies we need to live a godly committed life right in the very precious promises we find in God's Word. We can hold the Word of God in our hands and hide its promises in our hearts! We must study the whole Word of God or we may get the message wrong: Philippians 2:13; Philippians 2:12. We must work out what our Lord has worked into our lives. We have a divine cooperative with our God: 2 Peter 1:1-2. As our God multiplies He expects us to be adding: 2 Peter 2 Peter 1:5-7. We must take the responsibility for our growth; God will do His part but we must be diligent to add to what our God is doing.

III. WITH ALL DILIGENCE ADD!

The Apostle Peter gives us seven additions we are to be diligent to add to our faith in Jesus Christ so we continue throughout our lives to continuous growth toward more godliness:

1. Faith t Virtue: 2 Peter 1:5. Virtue is courage to continue to do the right things. People with virtue will do the right things acting from their moral base rather than from consensus.
2. Virtue t Knowledge: 2 Peter 1:5. We are to continue to grow in knowledge of God and His Word! We need knowledge anchored in truth and love.
3. Knowledge t Self-control: 2 Peter 1:6. We do have choices to make. We can choose what we do, what we say, and what we think.
4. Self-control t Perseverance. 2 Peter 1:6. Perseverance is the ability to voluntarily and continually endure difficulties and hardships for the sake of honor. Many of us have the self-control to start but lack the perseverance to cross the finish line God has started us toward. Perseverance is the trademark of true champions.
5. Perseverance t Godliness: 2 Peter 1:6. Godliness means reverence and deep respect toward God. It is the fear of the Lord. Hebrews 10:31.
6. Godliness t Brotherly Kindness: 2 Peter 1:7. This love is the love a brother has for his brother; it is called Phileo love. John 21:15-19.
7. Brotherly kindness t Love: 2 Peter 1:7. The Greek word here is Agape love. This is the kind of sacrificial love that is only given by God because it is the very love of God. 1 John 4:8; 1 John 4:16. It is truly a tribute to our

Lord that if we truly walk with Him the first things people will notice is our godly love to one another. John 13:34-35

IV. THE PROMISE OF DILIGENCE!

For the diligent believer Peter offers a three-promise video of what the results will be and also for the non-diligent believer Peter offers a three-promise video of what the results of their lack of diligence will bring to them. 2 Peter 1:8 . First, you will have stability in your Christian walk. 2. You will have vitality in your Christian walk: You will have abundant physical and mental energy throughout the days of your life: Psalm 92:12-15; John 10:10. 3. You will have reality in your Christian walk: We will see the fruit of Christ in our own walk with Him. Philippians 4:10. If that is what you want then start adding!

For the non-diligent believer Peter says three things will also happen to them. 1. You will lack spiritual power in your life! 2 Peter 1:9. If you do not add to what Christ has multiplied you will never have spiritual power in your life. 2. You will lack spiritual perception. Shortsighted, even to blindness is the way Peter spoke of the immature Christian. 3. You will lose spiritual privilege. You may even digress to the point you have forgotten that you were cleansed from your old sins.

It is time to add diligence to our walk with our Lord to make our calling and election sure! 2 Peter 1:10-11; 2 Corinthians 4:16-18. How strong is your faith? Are you disciplined and diligent in your pursuit of God? Are you planning on coming into port strong in your faith in Jesus Christ?