

**2018 SUNDAY SERMONS**  
**FOUNDATIONS FOR ENCOUNTERING GOD.**  
**2 PETER 1:5-11**

For us to encounter God this year, some spiritual structures must be in place.

- These people have received a precious faith
- Grace and peace are theirs
- All things that pertain to life and godliness has been granted to them
- But need to be pushed forward not to settle there.
- This is not a place of perfection. There is much to be done.
- To make progress in matters faith we must be diligent in our walk with God.
- Vs 5, we must give all diligence
- We must be diligent in protecting what we have and be diligent in pursuing more ground.

The believers's way is marked.

- Step by step
- It is progressive

This means you can evaluate your progress.

***1Peter 1:2 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord,***

Knowledge ( epignosis)

- This is the sphere in which grace and peace are communicated to the soul
- This is not intellectual
- It is directed towards an object
- Gradually approaching nearer and nearer to it
- Concentrate upon it
- Deep contemplation
- Mastering the powers of the soul in close meditation.
- Know where you are and start to push forward.

God's divine power is with us

But this is the reason work more strenuously

His divine power is fighting for us

Maybe you are asking, how can the infinite and the finite work together

They need to work together out of love and adoring gratitude.

**Faith**

- Believe in the finished work of Christ.
- This is the root and mother of all virtues.
- This is your entry point but should not remain alone.
- Faith in God

**Virtue**

- Strength and courage or moral excellence.
- Strength to stand up for good works
- To abound and excel in good works.
- Virtue enables the believer to be bold
- Virtue enables the saint not to faint in the day of adversity

**Knowledge**

- Knowledge in the name of God.

- Psalms 9:10. And they that know thy name will put their trust in thee: for thou, LORD, hast not forsaken them that seek thee.
- Knowledge of the will of God (good, pleasing and perfect will of God)
- The knowledge that provides wisdom to direct
- Knowledge quickens desire
- Knowledge increases faith
- Knowledge tends to participation.
- How do we increase in knowledge?
  - Through obedience.
  - Through self revelation
  - Through study
  - Through fellowship
  - Through discipline in affliction

### **Self control**

- Being moderate in the use of things
- Our desire for things should never be more than the desire for God.
- Excesses causes us to be self centered

### **Perseverance**

- This is being patient under pressure
- A conscious submission of our human will to the Holy will of God.
- A believer will be under persecution and trials.
- ***James 1:4. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.***
- Patience has a work to do in a believer's life
- Being able to bear all calamities and crosses with silence and submission,
- without murmuring against God or complaining of him,
- justifying him who lays all affliction upon us, owning that our sufferings are less than our sins deserve, and believing they are no more than we ourselves need

### **Godliness**

- Patience produces godliness
- an experimental knowledge of the loving-kindness of our Heavenly Father
- child-like fear and reverential love

### **Brotherly kindness**

- a tender affection to all our fellow-christians
- These are
  - children of the same Father,
  - servants of the same Master,
  - members of the same family,
  - travelers to the same country,
- heirs of the same inheritance,
- therefore they are to be loved with a pure heart fervently,

### **Love**

- Good's will to all mankind
- This is what distinguishes us from non believers

### **Benefits of this progression**

You will not be barren or unfruitful

- Knowledge of God should cause you to be fruitful (John 15:5)

- This is the experience of God we are looking for.
- Results speak volumes than words
- Do you want to be fruitful,
- Daniel 11:32, strength and exploits are a product of knowing God.
- You will abound in good works

You will not be shortsighted or blind

- You will not be spiritually blind
- You will be able to see far
- You will be able to sharpen your vision
- You will be discerning
- their sight is short and unable to discern what is future