

**Text: 2 Pt 1.5a**

I was full of resolve to do the whole set of verses listing the qualities Peter urges disciples to develop. (Note the past tense!)

Well, as I am thinking about the passage, I think we need to dwell on what Peter has said and look ahead to what Peter is about to say.

So, we will have only one half a verse as our text.

Read 2 Pt 1.1-7, text 5a

Our text is really just a couple of phrases, not even a sentence in English or Greek. However, since these phrases suggest so much, I want to dwell on them and impress our minds with their implications.

**Proposition: You need to get busy and grow!**

## I. The basis for the command “supply” [“add” KJV]

### A. The structure of the sentence

1. Opening reference to the preceding “Now for this very reason also”
2. Participle supporting the main verb: “applying all diligence”
3. Main verb: “supply ... in your faith ... moral excellence, etc.”
4. Important note: the participle gives us the *means* by which the *supplying* is done

### B. Reviewing the reasons or basis of the command

1. Peter’s desire for the believers:
  - a. “Grace and peace be multiplied to you” (2)
  - b. The means of accomplishing the desire: “the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord” (2)

See also “the true knowledge” mentioned in v. 3

- c. Notice the desire is that “grace and peace **be multiplied**”
2. God’s provision for the believers
  - a. “everything pertaining to life and godliness” (3)
    - 1) When we discussed v. 3, I didn’t dwell on this point

- 2) It is an important point: you don't need anything outside "the true knowledge of him" for your growth

We tend to complicate spiritual growth by using non-spiritual resources: psychology, self-help, secular wisdom

- Common grace may give some insight to these resources
- But common grace doesn't give *authority* to these resources
- The sure resource (authoritative, effective) is "the true knowledge" (*i.e.*, the Bible)

- b. "precious and magnificent promises" (4)

1) Taking advantage of God's gifts is more than just "reading the Bible" (but never less than that)

2) Taking maximum advantage comes from study, meditation, memorization, application (and then "rinse and repeat" for a lifetime)

3. God enables our efforts (4)

a. "partakers of the divine nature"

b. Escapees of "the corruption in the world"

4. The Great God is more than capable to call us and multiply his grace and peace in us: he "called us by His own glory and excellence" (3)

## II. The activity encouraged to obey the command

applying all diligence

### A. Two words

1. Applying (used only here in the GNT)

- a. Danker: “**παρεισφέρω** [παρά, εἰσφέρω] ‘bring in alongside’, **put to use, apply**”<sup>1</sup>
- b. Thayer: “a. *to bring in besides* (Demosthenes, others). b. *to contribute besides to something*”<sup>2</sup>
- c. Bauer: “**apply, bring to bear** σπουδὴν πᾶσαν *make every effort, do your best* **2 Pt 1:5** (σπουδὴν [πᾶσαν] εἰσφέρειν is a formal expr. in the Koine in ref. to benefactors and other civic-minded pers.”<sup>3</sup>
- d. Spicq: a related verb “... is used constantly in the sense of putting one’s zeal into something, bringing all one’s good will to bear ... Everyone agrees that this is clearly the meaning in 2 Pet 1:5”<sup>4</sup>

Hiebert mentions that this word was sometimes used for smuggling, bringing something in by a side-route.

“Perhaps the implication is that they must bring in this diligence ‘quietly and without ostentatious display.’”<sup>5</sup>

## 2. Diligence

- a. Danker: “**1. haste:** μετὰ σπουδῆς *in a hurry* **Mk 6:25; Lk 1:39.** The idea of haste readily transfers to enthusiasm for someth. – **2.** ‘zealous commitment for carrying out an obligation or opportunity for service’, **earnestness, zeal, concerned commitment** Ro 12:8, 11; 2 Cor 7:11f; 8:7f, 16; Hb 6:11; 2 Pt 1:5; Jd 3.”<sup>6</sup>
- b. Thayer: “**1. haste:** μετὰ σπουδῆς, *with haste*, Mark 6:25; Luke 1:39 (Sap. 19:2; Josephus, Antiquities 7, 9, 7; Herodian, 3, 4, 1; 6,

<sup>1</sup> Frederick William Danker and Kathryn Krug, *The Concise Greek–English Lexicon of the New Testament* (Chicago: The University of Chicago, 2009).

<sup>2</sup> Joseph Thayer, *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament* (International Bible Translators (IBT), Inc., 1889), BibleWorks, v.8.

<sup>3</sup> Walter Bauer, *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*, ed. Frederick W. Danker, 3rd ed. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000).

<sup>4</sup> Ceslas Spicq and James D. Ernest, *Theological Lexicon of the New Testament* (Peabody, Mass: Hendrickson, 1994), 40.

<sup>5</sup> D. Edmond Hiebert, *First Timothy* (Chicago: Moody Press, 1957), 57.

<sup>6</sup> Danker and Krug, *The Concise Greek–English Lexicon of the New Testament*.

4, 3). **2. earnestness, diligence:** universally, earnestness in accomplishing, promoting, or striving after anything, Rom. 12:11; 2 Cor. 7:11, 12; 8:7f; ἐν σπουδῇ, with diligence, Rom. 12:8; σπουδῆν ἐνδείκνυσθαι, Heb. 6:11; πᾶσαν σπουδῆν ποιῆσθαι (see ποιέω, l. 3, p. 525{b} bottom), to give all diligence, interest oneself most earnestly, Jude 1:3; σπουδῆν παρεισφέρειν, 2 Pet. 1:5; ἡ σπουδὴ ὑπὲρ τίνος, earnest care for one, 2 Cor. 8:16 (περὶ τίνος (Demosthenes, 90, 10); Diodorus 1, 75)”<sup>7</sup>

B. Implication: you need to make an effort in order to grow spiritually

1. Salvation is by faith
2. Sanctification is “in faith” (more in a moment), but “by effort”

From the first part of the passage, we know we have all the tools available for spiritual growth. This little phrase teaches us that we will need diligent effort.

“Escaping the corruption of lust (v. 4) takes effort (cf. 1 Tim. 6:11–12; 2 Tim. 2:2). It is possible to frustrate the grace of God by having faith without works (James 2:20). Therefore we must apply all diligence. This is the most basic requirement for experiencing effective Christian growth: pursue it diligently (cf. vv. 10, 15; 3:14).”<sup>8</sup>

### III. The sphere of activity: “in faith”

A. The κιν translates, “add to your faith”

1. The English gives the idea that you start with saving faith
2. Then you add qualities to your faith

B. We could translate “by diligent application, supply in the faith of you [in your faith] ...”

1. In other words, spiritual growth is a development of your faith itself

<sup>7</sup> Thayer, *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*.

<sup>8</sup> Tom Constable, *Tom Constable’s Expository Notes on the Bible* (Galaxie Software, 2003), 2 Pt 1.5.

2. You start with saving faith; you build up your saving faith with maturing qualities
3. You do this *diligently*

### Conclusion:

A reminder, Peter will end the epistle this way:

<sup>2 Pt 3.18</sup> but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him *be* the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

Peter wants you to grow in the grace and knowledge (3.18) and Peter wants you to multiply in grace and peace (1.2). This is the theme of the epistle and the real quality necessary for opposing false teachers who will rise up to trouble the church.

“It is not man’s effort that saves him; but, on the other hand, grace saves no man to make him like a log of wood or a block of stone; grace makes man active. God has been diligently at work with you; now you must diligently work together with Him. For we cannot expect to go to heaven asleep. We are not taken there against our wills. It is not our will that accomplishes our salvation; but still, it is not accomplished without our will.”<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> Spurgeon, *2 Peter*, 2 Pt 1.5.