

## The Promise of Promises

### 2 Peter 1:3-7

The promises of God connect us to and change us  
through His nature

#### 1. **KNOW** the **promises** from God

They come from His ability  
They come from His heart

#### 2. **BELIEVE** in the **power** of God

They are of extreme potential  
They are of extreme value

#### 3. **ACT** in **partnership** with God

His part is to share His nature with us  
Our part is to diligently add to our faith

Conclusion:

Do you need to KNOW, BELIEVE, or ACT?

## iPromise– EXTRA: Add-Ons to Faith (1 Peter 1:5-8)

Peter gives advice concerning the basics of the Christian faith; he acknowledges the need for us to take the initiative to build our faith. He gives us seven steps we should follow in building our spiritual lives.

**(1) Add virtue to faith** (v. 5). To our faith we should add “virtue” which is sometimes translated as “goodness” or “moral excellence.” Faith which is honoring to God is to have the character of goodness and moral excellence.

**(2) Add knowledge to virtue** (v. 5). Faith is not blind. It does not exist in a vacuum. If faith is to be active obedience to God, then we must have “knowledge” of God and of His will for us.

**(3) Add self-control to knowledge** (v. 6). To know is vitally important, but it is not enough. We are to do what we know we should do. “Self-control” means more than self being in control. A more descriptive and accurate term would be “God-control.” Only when we are under the control of the Holy Spirit can we be self-controlled.

**(4) Add perseverance to self-control** (v. 6). “Perseverance” -This word means “enduring, continuance or patience.” In our vernacular, we would say perseverance means “hanging in there.” Those who persevere by “hanging in there” are those who win the prize.

**(5) Add godliness to perseverance** (v. 6). Godliness cannot be fabricated. We cannot merely pretend to be godly. The quality of godliness comes from God Himself. He must give that quality of life to us. We receive it as we are dead to self and alive to God and as we allow the Spirit to live within us.

**(6) Add brotherly kindness to godliness** (v. 7). This is one of the amazing qualities of the church of Jesus Christ. We are to love one another as brothers and sisters in Christ—and are members one to another (1 Cor. 12:27). We must live out our faith by having love for our brothers and sisters in Christ.

**(7) Add love to brotherly kindness** (v. 7). There is a wonderful quality of love between brothers and sisters. There is an even deeper quality of love which knows no limits and has no conditions. It is the very quality of the love of God. Peter believes in the priority of love. In his first letter he wrote, “And above all things have fervent love for one another, for ‘love will cover a multitude of sins.’” (Prov. 10:12; 1 Pet. 4:8)