

FAITH-the first step of *life* (the foundation for life)

5 And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your **faith** virtue

Faith defined: a firm _____ upon; dependence upon;
_____ to

God's definition: Hebrews 11:1

faith is _____ (confidence, assurance) of things hoped for

faith is _____ (proof [tested + proven]) of things not seen

Faith is the means through which we _____ and appropriate the blessings of God. (conduit, vehicle)

Faith is the :

1. _____ of **Christian life**.* (Prerequisite)

Heb.11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

2. _____ for life and _____

Col.2:6 **As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him:** 7

Rooted and built up in him, and stablished **in the faith**, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.

Heb.11:3 **Through faith we understand** that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.

3. _____ for the **Christian life**

II Cor.5:7 For we walk by faith, not by sight:

Col.3:4 When **Christ, who is our life**, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

Rom.14:23 And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for **whatsoever is not of faith is sin.**

Luke 7:50 *saved* by faith

Rom.5:1 *justified* by faith

Acts 26:18 *sanctified* by faith

Rom. 5:2 have *access* by faith

Rom.11:20 *stand* by faith

II Cor.5:7 *walk* by faith

I John 5:4 *overcome* by faith

* Specific faith in Jesus - Rom.10:9-10; Acts 4:12

- admission of our need, confession of our sin

- reliance on God's trustworthiness (Word)

- dependence on His work and worthiness

- willingness to change direction (repentance)

- humility and readiness to receive the gift

We hope to answer these questions:

Does the Bible reveal a general plan for Christian maturity?

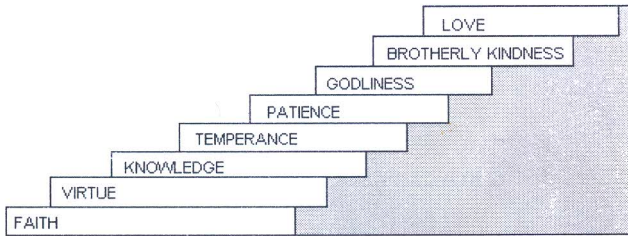
(describes the process God has put forth in this passage)

Is it possible to anticipate where God is working in my life? (listen to Him)

Where am I? What is my next step ?

How can I be sure of my salvation and become mature in Christ ? (v.10)

How can my life as a believer be more fruitful ?



1. God has provided everything we need to fulfill His plan for our lives

II Peter 1: 2 Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, 3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: 4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

2. If we don't respond to God and His provision - we will suffer loss.

8 For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.

3. When we respond correctly to God, we secure a position of spiritual victory.

10 Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: 11 For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

II Peter 1:10 Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure:

for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: