**​Make Every Effort**

Hope Chapel Honolulu

2 Peter 1:1-21

5 For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, 6 and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, 7 and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. 8 For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

(2 Peter 1:5-8, ESV)

**Introduction**

Peter appears to have addressed his first letter mostly to those Jewish Christians who had fled Jerusalem because of Roman oppression and persecution. With his second letter, Peter demonstrates his relational responsibility as a servant and apostle to both the Jewish and the Gentile Christian. Peter focuses here on the shared process of transformation through grace by faithfulness for the whole Body of Christ knowing that the end of his life was near.

**1. A servant and apostle of Jesus Christ. (2 Peter 1:1-4)**

 a) Despite his apostleship and seniority, Peter doesn’t see himself as superior to others.

 b) The divine nature the Holy Spirit described and promised as *life, godliness, glory* and *excellence*.

**2. The transformational process of growing in our knowledge and imitation of Christ. (2 Peter 1:5-14)**

 a) The relationship between faith and works in knowing Christ.

 b) God’s calling and election must be complemented by our personal and corporate growth in Christ.

**3. Looking backward and forward to the Day of Jesus Christ. (2 Peter 1:15-21)**

 a) Peter recounts the transfiguration as evidence of what Christ said, did and promised to do.

 b) What does “men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit” mean and matter?

**Conclusion**

The young Peter we read about in the gospel accounts—quick to speak and act, slow to hear and understand—has matured in the grace and truth of Christ. While Peter himself is clear that it is the power, love, and faithfulness of Christ that saves us, Peter also grew to recognize the importance of personal and corporate response to the grace and truth of Christ in concert with the Word, Spirit, and People of God. Are you making every effort to add Christ-like words, works, and relationships to the faith that you began with?

**For our prayerful study, discussion and application:**

1) Please practice CAKE with one another. Then have someone share a recent experience of when they realized they were in Enemy Mode and promptly returned to joy and relationship.

2) Read 2 Peter 1:1-21 and share one thing the Spirit says to you through the text.

3) What is God showing and telling you and what do you need prayer for this week?

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