

SECTION II

EIGHT CHARACTERISTICS OF A COMPLETE DISCIPLE

In this section you will learn God's outline for becoming a successful Christian. If you will abound in these eight characteristics, God promises:

- **you will have a special knowledge of Jesus Christ**
- **you will never stumble**
- **you will have abundance in the Kingdom of God**

Discipleship - Session 5

Begin the 8 Characteristics Of A True Disciple Number 1 - Faith

Things we will cover this lesson:

1. God's outline for true discipleship - 2 Peter 1:1-15.
2. Know this and you will not fail in your Christian life.
3. It all begins with faith.

Assignment:

1. Continue ALONE prayer log. (One day -- 1/2 hour.)
2. Also go over the material you learned this session. Look up all the scriptures. Put this lesson to practice in your daily life.

8 Characteristics Of A True Disciple God's outline for our success.

Read and note the promises of **2 Peter 1:1-15** (verses 8, 10, 11). Note also Peter's determination to see to it that we have this passage (verses 12-15)!

2 Peter 1:1-15

¹ Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:

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

³ as His divine power has given to us all things that *pertain* to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,

⁴ by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption *that is* in the world through lust.

⁵ But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your **faith virtue**, to virtue **knowledge**,

⁶ to knowledge **self-control**, to self-control **perseverance**, to perseverance **godliness**,

⁷ to godliness **brotherly kindness**, and to brotherly kindness **love**.

⁸ For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁹ For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.

¹⁰ Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble;

¹¹ for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

¹² For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of **these things**, though you know and are established in the present truth.

¹³ Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding *you*,

¹⁴ knowing that shortly I *must* put off my tent, just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me.

¹⁵ Moreover I will be careful to ensure that you always have a reminder of **these things** after my decease. (NKJV)

If you have access to a copy of *The Message*, read this passage from it.

Now lets begin our study of these eight things.

Characteristic Number 1 is **Faith**.

Faith - Definition:

- The Greek word is *pistis* - pronounced {pis'-tis}.
- The conviction of the truth of anything; generally with the included idea of trust.
- Confidence to the point of trust.

Important things to note about faith:

1. Faith was our beginning place in Christianity. This is where we entered the kingdom of God. This was our starting point.

See Ephesians 2:8-9; John 3:16, 36; Acts 16:31; Romans 10:9-10.

2. The English words *faith* and *believe* are the same word in the Greek. (They have the same root.) In English we do not have a verb for *faith* so we use the word *believe*. Thus, in reality Acts 16:31 says, "Believe (Faith) on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household." (NKJV)
Faith is something you "believe in" so much that you do something with the belief.
3. The Gary Stewart definition of Biblical faith: "Realizing what God wants done and then doing it." Apply this to Hebrews 11:30 for an example.
4. Study Hebrews 11 -- the "faith" chapter of the Bible. (Note especially verse 6.)
5. We need to build and expand our faith as Christians.
Romans 1:16-17. Faith builds faith.
We do this by adding to it in a very correct way as shown in 2 Peter 1.
6. Faith comes through hearing the Word of God.
Romans 10:17
7. Notice what Jesus said when the disciples asked Him to increase their faith.
Luke 17:5-10 -- The faith of a mustard seed is not the small size of the faith; it is the faith to die to self like a mustard seed does. This is big faith.
The story Jesus relates shows us how faith is involved every time we do what our Master tells us to do. See this especially in doing the common, ordinary duties of the Christian life like prayer, Bible study, church attendance, etc. This is our duty; this is faith. Do these things and your faith will increase.
8. Jesus taught us to have faith when we pray.
Mark 11:22-24 ²²So Jesus answered and said to them, "**Have faith in God.**" ²³"For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but **believes** that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. ²⁴"Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, **believe** that you receive *them*, and you will have *them*. (NKJV)

¹ John 5:14-15 ¹⁴ Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. ¹⁵ And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him. (NKJV)

9. Faith always has the idea of “trust” build into it. We must learn to trust in God.

Psalm 9:10 ¹⁰ And those who know Your name will put their trust in You; For You, LORD, have not forsaken those who seek You. (NKJV)

Psalm 37:5 ⁵ Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring *it* to pass. (NKJV)

Psalm 56:11 ¹¹ In God I have put my trust; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me? (NKJV)

Psalm 91:2 ² I will say of the LORD, "*He is* my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I will trust." (NKJV)

Proverbs 3:5-6 ⁵ Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; ⁶ In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. (NKJV)

1 Timothy 4:10 ¹⁰ For to this *end* we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is *the* Savior of all men, especially of those who believe. (NKJV)

SUMMATION STATEMENT: By faith we became Christians. By faith we will live and die as Christians. Without faith we cannot please God. In all situations of life, seek to know God’s will in that situation and then do it. Have confidence in God; trust Him. Do what His word says. He will be pleased. You will be blessed.