

**“Add love to love.”** Towards the very end of his ministry, Jesus told a story. There once was a man who was going on a journey, so he called his servants to gather around. He was going to entrust them with his greatest treasures and he wanted them to be responsible and take care of his treasure for him while he was gone. He gave one of his servants five talents, one of his servants two talents, and one of his servants one talent—**“each according to his ability.”** Then he went on his journey.

The servant who had been given five talents, went and put his lord’s treasure to work. He added to it and multiplied it through his efforts. The servant who had been given two talents, did the same. He added to his lord’s treasure, multiplying and increasing it through his efforts. But the servant who had been given one talent was timid and afraid. Instead of working and using the great treasure entrusted to him, he went and buried it in the ground, doing nothing with it.

When the lord returned, he called together all of his servants to give an account of what they had done with his great treasure while he was gone. To each of the servants that had diligently used his treasure, added to it, increased it, and multiplied it, he said, **“Well done, helpful and faithful servant. Enter into your lord’s joy.”** But to the timid and fearful servant, who had done nothing with the great treasure, he said, **“You harmful and lazy servant.”** Then he took his treasure away from this servant and threw him out of his care and protection, to live in the world’s ways of sadness and anger.

The apostle Peter knew this story well and had heard Jesus himself teach it many times. And Peter’s own words for us, mirror this story. Peter urges us to **“make every effort”** to work, increase, and **“add”** to the great treasure we have been given by the Lord. He tells us, **“Be diligent to make your calling and election secure.”** The Creator has given us **“everything we need.”** He has given us his love and his promises. He has given us his Word and his Spirit. He has given us his very power. Through this power that he has given us, we are able to work and strive to increase and **“add”** to the great treasure he has given us.

The great treasure the Lord has given us is **“faith.”** Faith is the basis and foundation of our relationship with our heavenly Father. Through a relationship of trust we are in communion with the Lord himself. We are connected to his Word, his Spirit, and his power. Therefore we are urged to take that great treasure of **“faith”** and use it and work it so that it grows, increases, multiples, and is added to.

Peter walks us through what we need to **“add”** to our faith. He urges us to take our **“faith”** and add **“godly focus”** to it. We need to use our faith to turn our attention fully on the Lord—to focus our attention on higher matters than the desires of our flesh. Then he urges us to use that **“godly focus”** to add **“knowledge.”** We need to learn. We need to understand the Lord’s teachings, we need to know what his will and desires are for our lives. Then he urges us to use that **“knowledge”** to add **“self-control.”** We must use the Lord’s teachings to control ourselves and our flesh. We must start shaping ourselves into the Lord’s image. He then urges us to use that **“self-control”** to add **“patience.”** We must use our self-control to say “no” to ourselves and practice being patient like the Lord—to be people who wait on our heavenly Father and each other and do not panic. He then urges us to use that **“patience”** to add **“submission.”** As we wait on the Lord, we must lower ourselves before the Lord and put ourselves under all people. Then he urges us to use that **“submission”** to add **“brotherly love.”** As we submit to each other, we must learn how to be servants who love each other in the household of faith. We must love all those in Christ’s church. He then urges us to use that **“brotherly love”** to add **“ἀγάπη”**—love for all creatures, even our enemies. We need to take the love we practice among our brothers and sisters of Christ and extend it to all in the world, even to those who hate us.

**“Add love to love.”** We are called to work the **“faith”** we have been given by the Lord and grow it into **“godly focus,”** into **“knowledge,”** into **“self-control,”** into **“patience,”** into **“submission,”** into **“brotherly love,”** and finally into **“ἀγάπη”**—love for our enemies. We are called to use the Spirit, the all-powerful Spirit of the Creator, we have been given. The Lord has entrusted us with the greatest treasure—his Spirit that gives us **“faith”**—and he expects us to work it, use it, and **“add”** to it, growing these virtues within ourselves everyday.

If we follow Peter’s advice and work the treasure we have been given from the Lord, then he assures us we will be **“fruitful and productive.”** And when we stand before the Lord’s judgment, our heavenly Father will say to us, **“Well done, helpful and faithful servant.”** And we ourselves will then be **“added”** to the eternal Kingdom of Christ. But if we do not put our faith to work, if we do not diligently strive with all effort to **“add”** to and increase the Lord’s treasure we have been given, then the Lord will say to us, **“You harmful and lazy servant.”** And we will be removed from his presence and Kingdom, left all alone to live in sadness and anger.

Peter says to us, **“Even though you know this already, I must constantly remind you.”** We are forgetful people. We are easily distracted by the world and all that goes on around us. Everyday we need to **“remember”** what we have been called to, what our purpose is. We are the Lord’s servants and he has given us an important task and responsibility. We must **“make every effort”** to use and work the Lord’s treasure of **“faith”** that he has given us and to **“add”** to it. The Lord wants us to take what he has given us and grow it and multiply it for his Kingdom. **“Add love to love.”**

What are you doing with the great treasure of **“faith”** that the Lord has entrusted to you? Are you adding **“godly focus”** to your faith? Are you adding **“knowledge”**? Are you adding **“self-control”**? Are you adding **“patience”**? Are you adding **“submission”**? Are you adding **“brotherly love”**? Are you adding **“ἀγάπη”**—love for your enemies? Are you **“adding love to love”**? Or are you burying the great treasure of your **“faith”** and not growing in virtue and not using your faith for anything?

You have no excuse. The Lord has given you **“everything you need.”** He has given you your task **“according to your ability”** and he has given you his divine Spirit and power. He is calling you to **“add love to love.”** You have all the tools you need, everything you need. Will you be a **“helpful”** servant or a **“lazy”** servant? Will you confirm your calling as the Creator’s child or will you choose to be cast away from the Lord into the **“outer darkness”** of sadness and anger?

You have the gift of faith. You have been given the Kingdom. You have been given the Spirit. Your heavenly Father is providing you with everything you need. So get up and get to work. Take the Lord’s gifts and put them to work and **“add love to love”** in all you do. **Amen.**