

Coach House Church BEACONS

THE BASICS

7TH OCTOBER 2020

Whenever people learn new skills, they have to start with the basics. If you learn to play an instrument you have to practice, practice, practice the basics. I'm thinking back to when I learned to dance salsa. I had to be really confident in doing the basic mambo step before the instructor introduced the more complicated and fancy steps and turns.

In school when I support pupils in maths lessons, the teacher always makes sure the children are reminded of the things that they've learned the day before and only after that something new is introduced. Another example is that when the younger pupils are introduced to solving equations, teachers often have to fill in the gaps - they have to practice or remind the children how to do long division or multiplication. It's pointless if you know the steps of how to solve an equation but cannot do the other mathematical operations involved.

A good teacher will always go through the basic rules or processes of the skill he is teaching his students too make sure that the students remember them.

Peter, one of the 12 disciples, was a witness of Jesus's gospel and life after Jesus went to be with the father in heaven. He had to teach people how to live as Jesus lived.

This is what Peter wrote in his second letter to the wider church :

"For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."

2 Peter 1:5-8 NIV

Faith, goodness, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, mutual affection and love. Let's go through the individual qualities and remind ourselves about them .

Faith is described in Hebrews 11:1 as this : "Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see." And further down in the same chapter the writer of Hebrews said this :

"And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him."

Goodness is described in the dictionary as moral excellence; virtue. kindly feeling; kindness; generosity. excellence of quality. However we know from the bible that only God is good and that we all fall short in this quality. Nevertheless, as we are God's children we have his qualities and therefore we can learn how to be good.

Knowledge in this verse I believe it refers to knowing the Lord. To get to know someone we need to invest time and effort, like any other relationship. Spending time in God's word and in prayer means that we will get to know the Lord better. His character will be familiar and obvious to us. When someone tells us something untrue about the Lord , we will be able to recognise the lie or deceit. Peter encouraged the believers to "know the lord" as false teachers were everywhere, just like in our days .

Self-control is a big one. I'm sure that we all have been in situations where anger, pain or fear got the best of us; when we said or did something hastily and then came to regret it. In Galatians 5:23 self-control is listed as a fruit of the Spirit ; therefore the more time we spend with the Lord the more we become like him and are able to we display this fruit of the Spirit.

Then we have perseverance, we are able to keep going even when the going is tough; when we miss the mark, try again. When we are set back or knocked over, get back to the narrow road and keep on walking. As I mentioned in one of my previous beacons, our Christian life is like a journey and like on any worldly journeys, there are ups and downs.

Godliness is a quality we should all desire. Seeking through the bible to find a person that was named godly, I found only one: Jesus. Godliness was advised throughout the bible for people to seek to attain however, only Jesus reached that

level. When we fellowship with Jesus we become more and more like Him and therefore closer to His level of godliness.

I looked up the term Mutual Affection in the dictionary and this is what I found : sympathy of each person for the other. mutual understanding. a relation of affinity or harmony between people; whatever affects one affects the other; We need Mutual Affection to function as a body of believers.

The last quality we are looking at is Love. Endless books and essays could be written about love; let's just remind ourselves about a little of what we know : God is love 1John4:8; Jesus reduced the Jewish law to these two commandments : "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."Mark 12:29-31 .

Paul wrote a whole chapter about Love in his letter to the Corinthians; among other things he says this : "And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love."

1 Corinthians 13:13 NIV

Peter made sure that as long as he lived he looked after his brothers and sisters by reminding them about the Important things in life and how to go about being effective christians, christians that could teach other people about following Christ. Let us do the same, let's remind ourselves how to live and love like Jesus did. Let's come along side each other, supporting and helping the ones around us who are in need and encourage one another to strive to a closer relationship with our Lord

Let's pray.

Lord thank you for your word. Thank you that through your word you guide and lead us. Thank you for the people that point us to you and the ones that help us along the way. Give us hearts that are willing to listen and follow . In Jesus name I pray.

Amen



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