

## SERMON OUTLINE

**SERMON TITLE:** How to Build Stability into Your Life

**SERMON REFERENCE:** 2 Peter 1:1-11

**LWF SERMON NUMBER:** #2270

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) These are dangerous days.
- b) The devil's disciples are devious, and they are teaching false doctrines.
- c) Many of God's people are confused.
  - i) Some have a false view of separation.
    - (1) They wound the brotherhood because they separate from people they ought not to separate from.
  - ii) Others have a false view of cooperation.
    - (1) They aide the enemy by cooperating with those they have no business cooperating with.
  - iii) Many attribute the work of the devil to the Holy Spirit, while others attribute the work of the Holy Spirit to the devil.
- d) God doesn't want us to be confused.
- e) God wants us to be strong, stable, and steadfast.
- f) 2 Peter 1:1
  - i) The man who wrote this was Simon Peter.
    - (1) He is one who slipped and fell.
      - (a) He denied, swore, and took an oath that he never knew the Lord Jesus.
  - ii) This verse does not say that they "attained" like precious faith, but that they "obtained" it.
    - (1) Salvation is a gift.
    - (2) It is not a reward for the righteous; it is a gift for the guilty.
      - (a) It is something we don't attain, but we obtain.
  - iii) This "like precious faith" was bought with the blood of Jesus as a Lamb without spot or blemish.
- g) We are all saved the same way.
  - i) It took as much of the blood of Jesus to save one person as it does another.
  - ii) We all come in through the same door.
  - iii) It is "like precious faith."
    - (1) 2 Peter 1:1
  - iv) There is only one way to be saved.
- h) While we are all saved the same way, some end up so differently.
  - i) Some grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
    - (1) They are strong, vibrant, and victorious in their faith.
  - ii) Others stumble, stagger, slip, and fall.
- i) 2 Peter 1:10
  - i) Peter knew what it was to stumble and fall.
  - ii) He tells those of us who are saved what to do so that we will never fall.
  - iii) When Peter wrote this, he was no longer the inconsistent man he used to be.
    - (1) His parents gave him the name "Simon."

- (a) “Simon” means “shifty.”
    - (2) Jesus changed his name to “Peter.”
      - (a) “Peter” comes from the word we get our word “petrified” from.
        - (i) It means “rock.”
          - 1. He became strong in the Lord.
          - 2. He became stable and no longer unstable.
  - j) In today’s message, we will look at three things that will help us to have a stability and a steadfast faith.
- 2) A FAITH THAT KNOWS
  - a) 2 Peter 1:2-3
  - b) 2 Peter 1:5-6
  - c) 2 Peter 1:8
    - i) The word “knowledge” is a key word in these verses of Scripture.
    - ii) The word here for “knowledge” is not the ordinary word for knowledge.
      - (1) It doesn’t mean just mere knowledge.
      - (2) It means an “intimate relationship.”
        - (a) Not knowing about God, but knowing God.
        - (b) If we only know about God (the facts of God), that is not enough.
  - d) The way to have a life where we will not fall is to have an intimate, personal knowledge of God.
    - i) We can sit in church and get the facts about God.
    - ii) But we need an intimate relationship with the Lord.
  - e) Philippians 3:10
    - i) Paul wrote this later on in his ministry.
      - (1) He was an apostle, and he still wanted to know more of Jesus.
    - ii) No matter how much we know Him today, we can still know Him better.
    - iii) None of us really know the Lord as much as we could.
    - iv) If we would come to a place where we would not fall, then we need to have a personal knowledge of Him, not just a knowledge about Him.
  - f) Daniel 11:32
  - g) John 17:3
  - h) The only way to know someone is to spend time with them.
    - i) Spend time with Jesus.
  - i) This knowledge brings the following:
    - i) Pardon
      - (1) 2 Peter 1:2
      - (2) The only way that we can know pardon, that’s grace, is through the knowledge of Jesus Christ.
    - ii) Peace
      - (1) 2 Peter 1:2
      - (2) In the Bible, grace always comes before peace.
        - (a) First, the grace of God.
        - (b) Then, the peace of God.

iii) Power

- (1) 2 Peter 1:3
- (2) He has given us everything.
  - (a) What good is everything if we don't know about it?
  - (b) We can have blessings that we don't even know about.
    - (i) The devil does not want us to know.
- (3) Jesus Christ lives in those who are saved, and He has "given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness."
  - (a) 2 Peter 1:3
  - (b) We don't need anything else.
  - (c) We need to understand what we have.
    - (i) It comes through the knowledge of Him.
- (4) Some of us don't understand the power that we have.
  - (a) At a circus, an elephant would sometimes have one leg chained to a stake in the ground.
    - (i) Unknown to the elephant, that stake was not driven very deeply into the ground.
    - (ii) The elephant could pull the stake out at any time, but he never tried because he thought he couldn't do it.
      1. When the elephant was a baby, they trained him by putting a stake in the ground very deeply so that he could not pull himself free.
      2. Now, as a grown elephant, he has been convinced that he can't pull the stake from the ground, so he never tries.
  - (b) Some of us have been trained by the devil the same way.
    - (i) We don't understand the power that we have.
    - (ii) Satan has us chained by some little, insignificant thing.
      1. Jesus wants to set us free and make us what we ought to be.

iv) Promises

- (1) 2 Peter 1:4
- (2) God has given us these promises.
- (3) But if we don't know the promises, then we can't claim or stand on the promises of God.
- (4) The promises of God help us understand that we have a divine nature.
  - (a) 2 Peter 1:4
  - (b) We get this nature when we are born again, but it has to be developed.
  - (c) Nature determines our appetite.
    - (i) 2 Peter 2:22
      1. A dog will return to his own vomit.
        - a. That is the nature of a dog.
      - (ii) A sheep prefers the green pastures.
        1. What do you feed on?
      - (iii) Someone who reads the Word of God has a hunger for it.

- (iv) Romans 8:28
- (d) Nature determines behavior.
  - (i) The nature of an eagle is to fly.
  - (ii) The nature of a fish is to swim.
  - (iii) The nature of a Christian is to live the Christian life.
- (e) Nature determines environment.
  - (i) Squirrels climb trees.
  - (ii) Fish swim in the water.
  - (iii) You can tell whether or not you are a child of God by the environment that you seek out for yourself.
- (f) Nature determines association.
  - (i) Sheep gather in flocks.
  - (ii) Fish gather in schools.
  - (iii) Christians gather in church.
    - 1. We have to know the things that are freely given to us by God in order for us to live up to this nature.

### 3) A FAITH THAT GROWS

- a) 2 Peter 1:5-7
- b) Once we have a faith that knows and a faith that grows, we don't stop there.
  - i) If someone ceases to be better, then he ceases to be good.
  - ii) If someone is not a growing Christian, then he is set up to fall.
  - iii) We have to know Jesus Christ intimately, and then make it our purpose to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
- c) Here is a checklist to know whether or not you are a growing Christian:
  - i) Virtue
    - (1) 2 Peter 1:5
    - (2) Another word for virtue is strength.
    - (3) When Jesus was touched by the woman who had an issue of blood, the Bible says that "virtue" went out of Him.
      - (a) Mark 5:25-30
      - (b) It doesn't mean that goodness went out of Him.
        - (i) Goodness went from Him but not out of Him.
        - (ii) He was no less good after she touched Him than He was before she had touched Him.
      - (c) It means that "strength" went out of Him.
    - (4) We need to add strength to our faith.
      - (a) Babies are weak; but as babies grow, they get stronger.
    - (5) You can tell the strength of a person by what it takes to stop him.
    - (6) There is virtuous strength.
  - ii) Knowledge
    - (1) 2 Peter 1:5
    - (2) This is practical insight and intimate knowledge.

- (3) We may know the Lord and know Him intimately, but there is more we can know of Him.
- (4) In the Christian life, there is nothing to earn but a lot to learn.
- iii) Temperance
  - (1) 2 Peter 1:6
    - (a) The word “temperance” means “self-control.”
  - (2) Proverbs 16:32
  - (3) Proverbs 25:8
    - (a) Both of these verses in Proverbs talk about keeping ourselves in control.
  - (4) Babies are not only weak, but babies often are out of control.
    - (a) Babies go into tantrums.
    - (b) Are you under control?
      - (i) How about your sexual desires?
      - (ii) How about your appetite for food?
      - (iii) How about your recreation?
      - (iv) How about your quiet time?
- iv) Patience
  - (1) 2 Peter 1:6
    - (a) This means steadfastness.
  - (2) Things happen to us that we can't explain.
    - (a) They have to be unexplainable in order to make sense.
      - (i) If we can praise God for the unexplainable, then we understand what real patience is.
  - (3) Peter was primarily talking about endurance under persecution.
    - (a) Bible-believing Christians in today's world are going to be under some persecution or trouble.
      - (i) If the trouble or trials come from God, then praise Him.
        - 1. He means us no harm.
      - (ii) If it comes from the devil, then by all means praise God.
        - 1. If the devil persecutes us and that causes us to praise God, then the devil might stop it.
        - 2. Build a wall of praise that the devil can't get through.
    - (b) Praise God no matter what happens.
- v) Godliness
  - (1) 2 Peter 1:6
    - (a) This means God-likeness.
  - (2) When people see us, they ought to be reminded of Jesus.
- vi) Brotherly kindness
  - (1) 2 Peter 1:7
  - (2) Simon Peter, by nature, was not given to brotherly kindness.
    - (a) He was a debater and an arguer.
  - (3) One of the great evidences of the new birth is that we are kind.
- vii) Charity or sacrificial love

- (1) 2 Peter 1:7
  - viii) We cannot imitate these things, and we can't manufacture them.
    - (a) These are the fruits of the Spirit.
    - (b) Use these as a checklist to see if you are growing in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.
  - d) Evangelist Billy Sunday, who was the Billy Graham of his day, was told that if he would do the following three things in his everyday life, then he would not backslide:
    - i) Spend fifteen minutes a day letting God talk to you through the Bible.
    - ii) Spend fifteen minutes a day talking to God in prayer.
    - iii) Spend at least fifteen minutes a day talking to someone else about God.
      - (1) Billy Sunday said that he practiced these things all of his life.
  - e) To cease to be better is to cease to be good.
- 4) A FAITH THAT SHOWS
- a) 2 Peter 1:8-10
  - b) We will no longer be barren.
    - i) 2 Peter 1:8
    - ii) There is going to be fruit in our lives.
      - (1) We are going to begin to reproduce.
    - iii) Anyone who loves Jesus and is a growing Christian will be fruitful.
      - (1) Jesus said that if we abide in Him, we will bring forth fruit.
        - (a) John 15:5
    - iv) How much real fruit is there in your life?
      - (1) Are you reproducing yourself?
      - (2) Is the fruit of the Spirit in your life?
  - c) We will no longer be blind.
    - i) 2 Peter 1:9
      - (1) He can't see his future.
      - (2) He has forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.
      - (3) He is no longer thankful for what God has done for him.
    - ii) We need to be thankful to God for saving us from our sins.
    - iii) What would we be without Jesus?
      - (1) We would probably be selfish, proud, arrogant, and self-centered.
      - (2) We would be on the road to Hell.
    - iv) Don't be blind to what God has done for you.
  - d) We will not be bewildered.
    - i) 2 Peter 1:10
      - (1) This doesn't mean from God's viewpoint; God knows.
      - (2) This is speaking from our viewpoint.
    - ii) Nobody will ever be a strong Christian who does not have a deep assurance of their salvation.
    - iii) For anyone who has made a profession of faith in Jesus but doesn't have a real assurance of his salvation, then one of three things is true:

- (1) There is unconfessed, unrepented of sin in his life.
- (2) He is not saved.
- (3) He doesn't understand completely the message of grace.
  - (a) Most likely it is one of the first two things.
- iv) If you have problems with doubt, then deal with sin.
- v) Hebrews 3:12
  - (1) Unbelief never comes out of the head.
  - (2) Unbelief comes out of an evil heart.
    - (a) Deal with sin.
    - (b) There is nothing more debilitating to assurance than sin in the heart.
- vi) If your lifestyle is sin, then you have no reason to say that you know that you are saved.
  - (1) You are not saved by good works.
  - (2) If someone casually, carelessly, and contemptuously goes on in sin, then they had better put a question mark there.
- vii) Sometimes someone may be saved but may wonder about their salvation.
  - (1) Maybe they have been dabbling in sin somewhere and need to get their heart clean and clear.
  - (2) If we confess and get right with God and still have doubts, then it just may be that we have never been saved at all.

## 5) CONCLUSION

- a) If you are a Christian and are not growing, then you are going to fall.
  - i) You are to know, and you are to grow.
- b) If you have a faith that knows and a faith that grows, then it will be a faith that shows.
  - i) 2 Peter 2:10
    - (1) If these things be in you, then you will not fall.
- c) God did not engineer you to failure.
  - i) You don't have to fall.
- d) 2 Peter 1:10-11
  - i) Will you have that abundant entrance into Heaven?
- e) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- f) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
  - i) Romans 3:23
  - ii) Romans 10:9-10
  - iii) Romans 10:13
  - iv) Acts 16:31
  - v) John 3:16