

This week's reading is from 2 Peter 1:1-11.

Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who through the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ have received a faith as precious as ours:

² Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

³ His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. ⁴ Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

⁵ For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; ⁶ and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; ⁷ and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. ⁸ 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. ⁹ But whoever does not have them is nearsighted and blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their past sins.

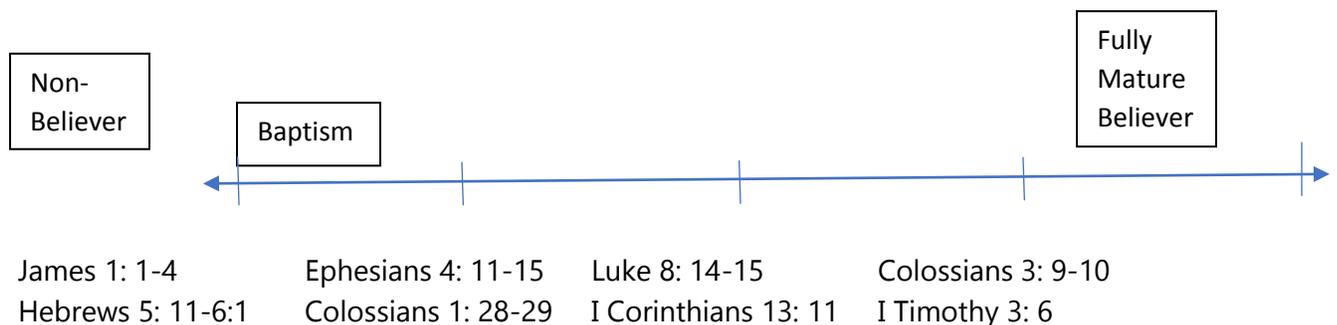
¹⁰ Therefore, my brothers and sisters,^{10a} make every effort to confirm your calling and election. For if you do these things, you will never stumble, ¹¹ and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

In verses 5-7, are the qualities in this order for a reason (starting with faith and building to love)?

Considering growth in Christian maturity, what are some principles you see at work here?

Verse 10 contains the phrase "make every effort." What are some ways you have or can "effort" to add the qualities in verses 5-7 to your life?

Look at this continuum and read the passages below.



From these passages and others that may come to mind, make a list of the milestones to maturity a Christian will pass through on their journey from baptism to full maturity.

When we are seeking a way of life that is counter to the dominant culture (like the Israelites), we need support. We need a community to practice with, a community that by our participation in it shapes our lives in positive ways. God designed the church for this purpose. What are some ways Holland Park Church has fostered your growth in maturity? How can your church family be a greater support and encouragement as you grow in Christ?