



# The Tri-Cities Edifier

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## *Add to Your Faith*

by Gene Taylor

When one becomes a child of God, he is born again spiritually (John 3:1-5) becoming a spiritual babe who is to grow (1 Pet. 2:1-2; 2 Pet. 3:18). One grows spiritually by feeding upon the word of God (Acts 20:32), developing a spiritual appetite in order to hunger and thirst after righteousness (Matt. 5:6).

2 Peter 1:5-11 tells of the necessity and nature of such growth. "But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

"Virtue" is the determination to do right. "Knowledge" is knowledge of God's word because it is the only source which tells what is right. "Self control" is the application of that knowledge in your life using it to govern your thoughts and actions. "Perseverance" is remaining steadfast to the Lord and His cause. "Godliness" is being like God, as He would have you to be. "Brotherly kindness" is tender affection toward brethren in Christ. "Love" is devotion to God, Christ, and your fellowman which is expressed in obedience to God and service to man.

If you are to be fruitful in your service to Christ, these things must abound in your life. If you lack them, you are blind as to what your life in Christ should be. 

## 7 Things That Will Help You Grow Spiritually

Grover Stevens

**1. LIVE and WORK** to reach others each day as if you knew the world was going to come to an end next Sunday night. Think of that feeling of urgency and priority! ([Read 2 Peter 3:1-12](#)).

**2. BE AS ENTHUSIASTIC** about the church and its services as you would be if there were overflowing crowds each time. Think of the interest, anticipation, and excitement of an overflowing crowd! ([Psalm 122:1](#))

**3. COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS.** Make a list of the things you are thankful to God for and thank Him for them one by one, as you pray in your closet. This will help you to be grateful ([Philippians 4:6](#)). It will also help you to realize your dependence on God ([Acts 17:24-25, 28; John 15:5](#)).

**4. MAKE & MAINTAIN A LIST OF YOUR FAULTS.** In addition, pray for forgiveness and help to overcome them as you truly strive to overcome them. This will help us see that we are really not as good as we think we are and how very much we really do need Christ for Savior. It will also help you to sympathize with the faults of others ([James 5:16; Galatians 6:1](#)).

**5. KEEP A QUIET TIME.** Set aside 30 minutes every day to spend with God in prayer, Bible study, and meditation. If you really love someone or a game, you want to spend some time with them. Just so, if you truly love God you want to spend some time alone with Him ([Psalm 1:2](#); [1 Thessalonians 5:17](#); [Luke 18:1](#)). First century Christians kept an **"hour of prayer"**([Acts 3:1](#)).

**6. VISIT SOMEONE FOR CHRIST EACH WEEK.** Visit some member you do not know very well; or a sick person; or a visitor to our services; or a weak member who needs encouragement; or someone who needs to become a Christian...see ([Matthew 25:34-46](#))

**7. REACH ANOTHER PERSON.** Conduct a Bible class in your home once a month and invite your relatives, friends, and neighbors to attend. The preacher or elders will assist you if you want them to ([Matthew 5:13-15](#); [James 5:20](#); [Daniel 12:3](#))....let's just break it down real simple brothers & sisters - **below:**

There are 168 hours in a week. If you were to attend Bible Study, morning worship, and evening worship on Sundays and Bible study on Wednesday, and 30 minutes 6 days a week in Bible reading, prayer, and meditation, and conduct an hour long study once a month, you would be giving God less than 10 hours a week, leaving you 158. **Remember the song: "Take time to be holy"?**

## Why Be Baptized?

- by H. E. Phillips

Many religious people today deny that obedience to the command of the Lord to be baptized "for the remission of sins" is necessary to those who have heard, believed the truth, and repented of their sins. The amazing part of this is how such a conclusion could be drawn in the face of all that is taught in the New Testament on the subject. Why does one have to be baptized for the "remission of sins"?

Man cannot decide this question; it must be done by the word of God. Following are some of the reasons given in the New Testament regarding the reason for baptism:

1. It is commanded by Christ (Mark 16:15, 16; Matt. 28:19; Acts 10:48).
2. It is in answer of a good conscience (I Pet. 3:20,21).
3. It is in order that one may rejoice in the forgiveness of sins (Acts 8:39; 16:33,34).
4. It is to get into Christ (Gal. 3:27).
5. It is to get into the death of Christ where remission is found (Rom. 6:3; Col. 2:12).
6. It is to be raised with Christ to walk in newness of life (Rom. 6:4).
7. It is to wash away sins (Acts 22:16).
8. It is to be saved (Mark 16:15,16; I Pet. 3:21).
9. It is for or unto the remission of sins (Acts 2:38).