



GROWTH GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS  
**Winter Quarter - Lesson 2 - Week of January 21, 2024**

**Lesson: DILIGENTLY STRENGTHENING YOUR FAITH**

**Bible Verses:** 2 Peter 1:3-8; Proverbs 12:24; Proverbs 13:4; Philippians 2:12-13; Colossians 1:29

**GETTING TO KNOW YOU**

1. What sports have you participated in?
2. What is the best book that you have read?

**DISCUSSION**

"But one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. All of us, then, who are mature should take such a view of things." - Philippians 3:13-15

Some believe that since God has provided everything needed for the Christian life, believers should expect Him to do everything for them. Read 2 Peter 1:3-8. Peter knew the Christian life is a struggle in which believers need to expend maximum effort to equip themselves with godly virtues - the virtues that, when present in our lives, produce assurance of salvation. Peter prefaces the list of those virtues in verse five by saying, "Now for this reason also." And it points us back to God's provision of salvation in verses one to four. God's provision is not meant to eliminate our efforts in living the Christian life but to enable and encourage them. We must, says Peter, live our lives by applying all diligence to develop godly virtues.

Read Proverbs 12:24 and Proverbs 13:4. We must be diligent to increase our faith. Diligence is defined as constant and earnest effort to accomplish what is undertaken.

1. Do you have something on your plate right now that you know God is calling you to do?
2. Would you say you are earnest in your effort to accomplish it?

Remember, work done in diligence is work that will be rewarded. Be diligent in all things - those you enjoy and those you don't. The spirit and attitude in which you do the work that you don't enjoy says a lot more about you than how you carry out the work that you do enjoy!

1. What is the difference between diligence and being a workaholic?
2. Do you work to strengthen your faith?

Working hard means being diligent, dedicated, focused, and many other strong qualities any professional strives to have. Hard-working people put their best effort forward and have high standards for the work they do. In the congregation, we must work hard for God and attempt to maintain God's standards. Muscular faith is a key component of our getting better.

Being a workaholic, on the other hand, means having your entire life revolve around your work. Are you a workaholic? Let hard work via God be your driving force for the rise of your faith.

Read Philippians 2:12-13 and Colossians 1:29. What do we learn about Christian living from these passages? Spirituality is a joint effort (God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and the Christian). What does it mean to work out your salvation?

Growing strong in Christ is like lifting very heavy barbells. The trouble is that no one likes to lift them. But the struggles in our lives increase our faith. As you work out your salvation, God works in you giving you the desire and power to accomplish His will. Are you working daily to increase your faith?

### **Nine Ways to Strengthen Your Faith**

1. Study the Bible.
2. Worship God.
3. Pray always.
4. Fast when you can.
5. Place your trust in Christ.
6. Unite with the saints.
7. Make efforts to grow in godly qualities.
8. Take a break from social media.
9. Meditate on your salvation.

The best time to start increasing your faith is now and not tomorrow. God has a plan for your life, and He wants you to work out your salvation. He expects you to be diligent to strengthen your faith and walk with Him. We (Christians) may be very disciplined and industrious in our businesses, our studies, and our homes, but we tend to be lazy when it comes to exercise in our spiritual lives.

**Prayer Focus:** God, help me to strengthen my faith.