

# THE GREAT THINGS OF THE BELIEVER'S LIFE

## 2 PETER 01:05–15

### *Introduction*

This is one of the most important passages in all of Scripture for the believer, a passage that must be studied and heeded time and again. It covers the great things (qualities and virtues) which are to be in the life of the believer. The great importance of these things is seen in three facts that are forcefully stressed by Peter.

First, a person is to give *make every effort*, to add “these things” to his faith and life. As Scripture says, the believer “is to work out his salvation” (Ph. 2:12).

Second, the *great power* of “these things” stresses their importance. *These things* work within the life of the believer to meet five desperate needs of man, five things for which the soul of the believer aches and longs. Glancing at the five points of verses 8-11 in the outline of the Scripture will again show the great importance of these things in the believer's life.

Third, Peter's heavy stress upon the importance of “these things” is phenomenal.

=> Note v. 12: Peter says that he is going to always preach *these things* despite the fact that the believer already knows them. But this is not all.

=> Note v. 13: Peter says that as long as he is living, he is going to stir up the believers by reminding them of *these things*. But this is not all.

=> Note v. 14-15: Peter says that *these things* are so important that he is going to see to it that the believers are reminded of them *even after his death*.

What more could Peter say?

Another way to look at this passage is this: verses 1-4 are God's part in salvation. God's part includes...

- faith and righteousness (v. 1).
- grace and peace (v. 2).
- all things that pertain to life and godliness (v. 3).
- the divine nature or new self (v. 4).

Note that *God's part* in salvation involves *seven things*. Now note that *man's part* in salvation involves *seven things* (v. 5-7). The *things* of the believer's life are of critical importance.

I. The charge to add *these things* (vv. 5-7).

II. The great power of *these things* (vv. 8-11).

III. The great importance of *these things* (vv. 12-15).

---

## **I. 2 Peter 01:05–07 Duty of the Believer**

There is the charge to add these things to one's life. The word “add” (epichoregein) means in addition to God's great salvation — right along side of what God has done — add these things. And make every effort to add them. Hasten, jump, act now to add them; don't wait. Be energetic and earnest, strenuously work to add these things to your faith and salvation.

1. Add “goodness” (aretēn): moral excellence and goodness of character; moral strength and moral courage. It means manliness: being an excellent person in life, a real man or a real woman in life; living life just like one should, in the most excellent way. It means always choosing the excellent way.

*1 Th 4:1-7 Finally, brothers, we instructed you how to live in order to please God, as in fact you are living. Now we ask you and urge you in the Lord Jesus to do this more and more. For you know what instructions we gave you by the authority of the Lord Jesus. It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honourable, not in passionate lust like the heathen, who do not know God; and that in this matter no one should wrong his brother or take advantage of him. The Lord will punish men for all such sins, as we have already told you and warned you. For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life.*

*1 Th 4:11-12 Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business and to work with your hands, just as we told you, so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody.*

2. Add “knowledge” (gnōsin): practical intelligence, practical wisdom, practical insight. It means knowing what to do in every situation and doing it; it is practical, day to day knowledge that sees situations and knows how to handle them. It is seeing the trials and temptations of life and knowing what to do with them and doing it.

Remember the charge: we must add knowledge to our faith. We must give, diligent attention to the situations of life and figure out how to conquer them.

*John 8:31 To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples.”*

*Rom 15:14 I myself am convinced, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, complete in knowledge and competent to instruct one another.*

*1 Cor 1:5 For in him you have been enriched in every way — in all your speaking and in all your knowledge.*

*James 3:13 Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom.*

*Col 2:3 In whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.*

*Prov 2:3-5 And if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God.*

*Prov 15:14 The discerning heart seeks knowledge, but the mouth of a fool feeds on folly.*

*Prov 23:23 Buy the truth and do not sell it; get wisdom, discipline and understanding.*

*Hosea 6:3 "Let us acknowledge the LORD; let us press on to acknowledge him. As surely as the sun rises, he will appear; he will come to us like the winter rains, like the spring rains that water the earth."*

3. Add "self-control" (egkrateian): to master and control the body or the flesh with all of its evil desires. It means self-control, the master of desire, appetite and passion, especially sensual urges and cravings. It means to be strong and controlled and restrained. It means to stand against the lust of the flesh, (sinful nature) and the lust of the eye and the pride of life, the boasting of what a person has and does (1 Jn. 2:15-16).

=> The believer is to know that self-control is of God, a fruit of the Holy Spirit.

*Gal 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.*

=> The believer is to proclaim self-control to the lost.

*Acts 24:25 As Paul discoursed on righteousness, self-control and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and said, "That's enough for now! You may leave. When I find it convenient, I will send for you."*

=> The believer is to control his sexual desires.

*1 Cor 7:9 But if they cannot control themselves, they should marry, for it is better to marry than to burn with passion.*

=> The believer is to strenuously exercise self-control, just as an athlete controls himself.

*1 Cor 9:25 Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.*

=> The believer is to grow in self-control.

*2 Pet 1:6 And to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness.*

=> The avenged believer is especially to be on guard to control himself.

*Titus 2:2 Teach the older men to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, in love and in endurance.*

4. Add “perseverance” (hupomonein): endurance, fortitude, steadfastness, constancy. The word is not passive: it is active. It is not the spirit that just sits back and puts up with the trials of life, taking whatever may come. Rather it is the spirit that stands up and faces life's trials, that actively goes about conquering and overcoming them. When trials confront a man who is truly justified, he is stirred to arise and face the trials head on. He immediately sets out to conquer and overcome them. He knows that God is allowing the trials in order to teach him more and more to persevere.

*Luke 21:19* “By standing firm you will gain life.”

*Rom 12:12* Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

*Heb 10:36* You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised.

*James 1:2-4* Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

*James 5:7* Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains.

5. Add “godliness” (eusebeian): see *Godliness*, 2 Pet. 1:3.
6. Add “brotherly kindness” (philadelphian): the very special love that exists between brothers and sisters within a loving family, brothers and sisters who truly cherish one another. It is the kind of love...
- that binds each other together as a family, as a brotherly clan.
  - that binds each other in an unbreakable union.
  - that holds each other ever so dearly within the heart.
  - that knows deep affection for each other.
  - that nourishes and nurtures each other.
  - that shows concern and looks after the welfare of each other.
  - that joins hands with each other in a common purpose *under one father* (Leon Morris. *The Epistles of Paul to the Thessalonians*. “Tyndale New Testament Commentary,” ed. by RVG Tasker. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1956, p. 80).

How can people possibly love one another like this when they are not true blood brothers and sisters? Here is how. The Greek word “brother” (adelphos) means *from the same womb*. The word used for love is *phileo* which means deep-seated affection and care, deep and warm feelings within the heart. It is the kind of love that holds a

person near and dear to one's heart. Now note: the two Greek words are combined together by the writer to convey what he means by *brotherly love*.

⇒ People who have *brotherly love* have come from the same womb, that is, from the same source. They have been *born again* by the Spirit of God through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. When they receive this new birth, God gives them a new spirit — a spirit that melts and binds their hearts and lives in love for all the family of God.

Believers may not even know each other. They may even be from different parts of the world, but there is a *brotherly love* between them because they have been given a new birth and a new spirit of love by God. They are brothers and sisters in the family of God — the family of those who truly believe in God's Son, the Lord Jesus Christ — the family who has received a new spirit that binds them together in brotherly love. This new spirit, of course, comes from the Holy Spirit of God Himself. (See *Fellowship*, Acts 2:42.)

**John 13:34-35** *“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”*

**John 15:12** *“My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.”*

**John 15:17** *“This is my command: Love each other.”*

**Rom 5:5** *And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.*

**Rom 12:10** *Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honour one another above yourselves.*

**Gal 5:22** *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness.*

**Heb 13:1** *Keep on loving each other as brothers.*

**1 Pet 1:22** *Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart.*

**1 Pet 3:8** *Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble.*

**1 John 3:14** *We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers. Anyone who does not love remains in death.*

**1 John 3:18-19** *Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. This then is how we know that we belong to the truth, and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence.*

**1 John 5:1** *Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves the child as well.*

7. Add “love” (agapen): the love of the mind, of the reason, of the will. It is the *agape* love of God, the love that goes so far...
- that it loves regardless of feelings — whether a person feels like loving or not.
  - that it loves a person even if the person does not deserve to be loved.
  - that it actually loves the person who is utterly unworthy of being loved.

Note four significant points about *agape* love.

- a. Selfless or *agape* love is the love of God, the very love possessed by God Himself. It is the love demonstrated in the cross of Christ.

=> It is the love of God for the *ungodly*.

**Rom 5:6** *You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.*

=> It is the love of God for *unworthy sinners*.

**Rom 5:8** *But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

=> It is the love of God for *undeserving enemies*.

**Rom 5:10** *For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!*

- b. Selfless or *agape* love is a gift of God. It can be experienced only if a person knows God *personally* — *only* if a person has received the love of God, that is, Christ Jesus, into his heart and life. *Agape* love has to be shed abroad poured out, (flooded, spread about) by the Spirit of God within the heart of a person.

**Rom 5:5** *And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.*

- c. Selfless or *agape* love is the greatest thing in all of life according to the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Mark 12:29-31** *“The most important one,” answered Jesus, “is this: ‘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 neighbour as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.”*

- d. Selfless or *agape* love is the greatest possession and gift in human life according to the Scripture (1 Cor. 13:1-13).

*1 Cor 13:13 And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.*

## **II. 2 Peter 01:08–11 Power of the Believer**

There is the great power of *these things*. Note how the great needs of man's heart and life are covered in these verses:

- => Man is *ineffective* and unproductive in life (v. 8).
- => Man is blind, cannot see the purpose, meaning and significance of life and cannot see how to be absolutely sure of tomorrow, much less the distant future (v. 9).
- => Man forgets, does not know how to deal with sin. Or if he knows how — knows the gospel — he is unwilling to give up his sin (v. 9).
- => Man does not know how to keep from falling in life, from failing and coming short. He does not know how to meet his full potential; how to control the problems of life; to bring love, peace, and joy to himself and his loved ones and the world (v. 10).
- => Man does not know how to gain and be perfectly assured of eternal life; he does not know how to receive an abundant entrance into the everlasting kingdom of Christ (v. 11).

But note: all these needs can be met perfectly. They are met if *these things* of verses 7-8 are added to our lives in abundance. The term "increasing measure" (pleonazonta) means to increase and grow; to overflow and be filled with more and more, ever learning how to increase these things in our lives. In other words, do not be satisfied...

- with your life as it is.
- with present growth.
- with staying where you are spiritually.
- with just knowing Jesus.
- with doing no more than what you are.

To have the needs of our hearts and lives met, we have to continue on in *these things*. We have to grow and grow in them: give them utmost attention; go after them ever so diligently, never slackening. If we abound in them, then the needs of our hearts and lives will be met to the fullest.

1. We will not be *ineffective and unproductive*.

- => The word "ineffective" (argous) means idle and slothful; being empty and useless. It is the very opposite of being fruitful and productive in life. Therefore if we do *these things*, if we really work at our salvation, we will not live a barren, dry life. We will not be unfruitful nor live a life that is empty and useless, idle and slothful. On the

contrary, we will live a life that flows with nourishment and that bears the ripest of fruit: love, joy and peace (cp. Gal. 5:22-23).

But note the source of such a life: the source is our Lord Jesus Christ. We must know Him and grow in the knowledge of Him. The knowledge of Him must be our aim and purpose in life. Only as we know Him can we overcome being ineffective and unproductive. He and He alone can give us real life. Therefore, we must do *these things* – really work at our salvation – really seek fellowship and communion with Christ moment by moment and day by day – in order not to be ineffective and unproductive in the knowledge of Him. We must learn to pray all day long and to take *set times* for prayer every day, set times for concentrated prayer. We must learn to *keep our minds* on Christ.

**Mat 13:23** *“But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.”*

**John 15:5-6** *“I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned.”*

**Gal 5:22-23** *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.*

**Psa 1:1-3** *Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.*

2. We will not be near-sighted and blind. Without Christ men are blind. They do not see...
  - the purpose, meaning or significance to life.
  - the importance of morality and goodness, love, joy, peace and the goodness of God and Christ.
  - the way to conquer sin and evil, trials and suffering, life and death.

Men are pictured as being unable to see afar off, as being near-sighted. They are pictured as keeping their eyes only on the earth and its pleasures and possessions, only upon enjoying life now, only upon living as they want and doing their own thing. They give little if any thought to the *eternal consequences* of their behaviour and actions. The result is devastating: they are blind and short-sighted. They lack real and permanent purpose, meaning and significance in life. They experience ever so much emptiness and loneliness, often wondering...



- what is life all about?
- what is its purpose and end?
- what is there after death?
- is there meaning to this life at all?

But note: if we do *these things*, if we work at our salvation, we will not be blind or unable to see ahead. We will not lack purpose, meaning or significance in life. *These things*, the things of salvation, will not only give us purpose in this life, they will give us eternal purpose. We will understand life, what life is all about. We will know the purpose, meaning and significance of life. We will never be empty or lonely or without purpose in life.

**Mat 6:23** *“But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!”*

**John 1:4** *In him was life, and that life was the light of men.*

**John 8:12** *When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”*

**John 12:35** *Then Jesus told them, “You are going to have the light just a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, before darkness overtakes you. The man who walks in the dark does not know where he is going.”*

**2 Cor 4:4** *The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*

**2 Cor 4:6** *For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.*

**Eph 4:18** *They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts.*

**Eph 5:8** *For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light.*

**Eph 5:14** *For it is light that makes everything visible. This is why it is said: “Wake up, O sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”*

**Phil 2:15** *So that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe.*

**Isa 9:2** *The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.*

3. We will not forget that we have been cleansed from our sins. Very frankly, the person who fails to do *these things*, who fails to work out his own salvation, soon forgets the death of Christ. He forgets the great price that Christ paid to forgive his sins. The person becomes a backslider. How can we say this? Because a person is either moving

ahead in Christ or else sliding back from Christ. And the person sliding back thinks little about sin and the consequences of sin. His thoughts and actions are in the world, and he is focusing upon the world and its pleasures and possessions. He has just forgotten that Christ purged him from his sins. He has slipped away from Christ and slipped back into the world.

The point is this: we must do *these things*, work out our salvation, or else we will backslide. We will forget Christ and His death and the glorious fact that He has forgiven our sins. *These things*, the wonderful things of salvation, have the power to keep us near Christ and to keep us from ever backsliding.

**Gal 4:9** *But now that you know God — or rather are known by God — how is it that you are turning back to those weak and miserable principles? Do you wish to be enslaved by them all over again?*

**1 Tim 4:15** *Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress.*

**2 Tim 2:15** *Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.*

**Heb 6:1** *Therefore let us leave the elementary' teachings about Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God.*

**Heb 10:38** *“But my righteous one will live by faith. And if he shrinks back, I will not be pleased with him.”*

**1 Pet 2:2-3** *Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.*

**2 Pet 3:18** *But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.*

4. We will never fall. How often we come short, stumble and fall. We just do not do what we should. If there is any single trait that runs through human life, it is stumbling, coming short, and falling. People stumble and come short and fall...

- in marriage
- in behaviour
- in work
- in devotions
- in worship
- in planning
- in relationships
- in the Christian life
- in responsibilities
- in serving Christ
- in family duties
- in resolutions
- in school
- in witnessing
- in promises

How can we keep from stumbling and falling? God has called and elected us to live a rich and fruitful life and to be rich and fruitful for all of eternity. How can we live such a rich, fruitful life? Note the verse:

*Be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never fall. (v. 10)*

We must be diligent in doing *these things*. We must give ourselves totally to the things of salvation. We must work and work at them. If we do, then we shall never stumble and fall, not in a tragic, devastating or destructive sense. On the contrary, we will live the most abundant and fruitful life imaginable.

*1 Cor 15:58 Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain.*

*Heb 6:11 We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, in order to make your hope sure.*

*2 Pet 1:10 Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never fall.*

*2 Pet 3:13-14 But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness. So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him.*

5. We will be given eternal life and more. We will receive a rich welcome into the kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. We will be richly and gloriously welcomed into heaven. The idea is that there will be different degrees of reward, of richness and wealth in heaven. Some of us will not inherit the kingdom, wealth and service that others will inherit. How can we be sure of receiving the richest entrance into heaven? By being diligent in doing *these things*, in working out our salvation. (See *Reward*, 1 Pet. 1:4.)

*Mat 25:34-36 "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'"*

*2 Cor 4:17 For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.*

*1 Pet 1:3-4 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade — kept in heaven for you.*

*2 Pet 1:11 And you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.*

### **III. 2 Peter 01:12–15 Importance of the Things of Salvation**

The great importance of *these things*. What Peter now does is most interesting. He tells us how important he considers these things.

1. They are so important that he is always going to preach and teach these things. He is going to remind and remind believers of them. Genuine believers know them and are even established in *these things*. But Peter says he is going to repeat and repeat them. He will not neglect them.

One thing is sure: Peter thought that *these things*, the things of salvation, were essential. How much more should we stress them! But note the next point. Peter has even more to say about *these things*.

2. They are so important that he is going to stir believers to do them as long as he is alive. He is going to remind and remind them of these things as long as he is in “this tabernacle,” the tent of his body. Peter has to repeat and repeat these things. Why? Because it is right (dikaion), the only right thing to do. Believers must do *these things* in order to experience the rich and fruitful life Christ gives. Therefore, he must stress them and drive them home to the hearts of his dear people. But note: this is not all that Peter has to say about *these things*.
3. They are so important that Peter is going to see that believers are stirred to do *these things* even after his death. Peter apparently knew that he was soon to be taken on home to heaven. But *these things* were so important that he was going to make arrangements with those left behind to teach *these things*.

**Thought 1.** How important are *these things*? How important is it that we preach *these things*? Few Scriptures have stressed and emphasized as much as these. Peter says he is going to see to it these things are taught to believers; he says this three times. This alone should stir us to preach and teach them — always — ever so diligently and faithfully.

*Mat 28:19-20 “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*

**Mark 16:15** He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation."

**John 20:21** Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."

**John 21:16** Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you truly love me?" He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep."

**Acts 1:8** "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

**Acts 4:20** "For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard."

**2 Cor 4:13** It is written: "I believed; therefore I have spoken." With that same spirit of faith we also believe and therefore speak.

**1 Th 4:2** For you know what instructions we gave you by the authority of the Lord Jesus.

**1 Tim 4:6** If you point these things out to the brothers, you will be a good minister of Christ Jesus, brought up in the truths of the faith and of the good teaching that you have followed.

**1 Pet 5:2** Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers — not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve.

**Isa 43:10** "You are my witnesses," declares the Lord, "and my servant whom I have chosen, so that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he. Before me no god was formed, nor will there be one after me." ■