



Be Encouraged, Part V

Presented by Pastor Daren L. Barron

Sermon Notes from June 14, 2009

Make a Decision to Develop!

James 1:2-8 (The Message)

2-4 Consider it a sheer gift, friends, when tests and challenges come at you from all sides. You know that under pressure, your faith-life is forced into the open and shows its true colors. So don't try to get out of anything prematurely. Let it do its work so you become mature and well-developed, not deficient in any way.

5-8 If you don't know what you're doing, pray to the Father. He loves to help. You'll get his help, and won't be condescended to when you ask for it. Ask boldly, believingly, without a second thought. People who "worry their prayers" are like wind-whipped waves. Don't think you're going to get anything from the Master that way, adrift at sea, keeping all your options open.

2 Peter 1:4-10 (Amplified Bible)

4 By means of these He has bestowed on us His precious and exceedingly great promises, so that through them you may escape [by flight] from the moral decay (rottenness and corruption) that is in the world because of covetousness (lust and greed), and become sharers (partakers) of the divine nature. 5 For this very reason, adding your diligence [to the divine promises], **employ every effort in exercising your faith** to develop **virtue** (excellence, resolution, Christian energy), and in [exercising] virtue [develop] **knowledge** (intelligence), 6 And in [exercising] knowledge [develop] **self-control**, and in [exercising] self-control [develop] **steadfastness** (patience, endurance), and in [exercising] steadfastness [develop] **godliness** (piety), 7 And in [exercising] godliness [develop] **brotherly affection**, and in [exercising] brotherly affection [develop] **Christian love**. 8 For as these qualities are yours and increasingly abound in you, they will keep [you] from being idle or unfruitful unto the [full personal] knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One). 9 For whoever lacks these qualities is blind, [spiritually] shortsighted, seeing only what is near to him, and has become oblivious [to the fact] that he was cleansed from his old sins. 10 Because of this, brethren, be all the more solicitous and eager to make sure (to ratify, to strengthen, to make steadfast) your calling and election; for if you do this, you will never stumble or fall.



Make a Decision to Develop!

- **virtue** (excellence, resolution, good character, Christian energy)
- **knowledge** (intelligence, spiritual understanding)
- **godliness** (piety, devotion to God)
- **brotherly affection** (concern for others)
- **Christian love** (1 Corinthians 13: 1-13)
- **self-control** (temperance, alert discipline)
- **steadfastness** (patience, endurance)

- **Winners make decisions that create the future they desire while worriers make decisions that create the present they desire.**