



January 18, 2026 | Matt Magee

Series: Fully Equipped: Pursuing Christian Maturity (2 Peter)

Sermon Title: The Symphony of Faith

Main Scripture: 2 Peter 1:5-7

OUTLINE & DISCUSSION GUIDE

I. A Wealthy Prince Living Like a Pauper is the Trap of "Passive" (or Apathetic) Christianity

- **Icebreaker:** Have you ever been given a tool, a resource, or a gift that was designed to make your life easier or better, but you simply never got around to using it? (e.g., a fancy kitchen gadget, a gym membership, a gift card, a software subscription). **Why did it stay in the box?**
- **Illustration:** Pastor Matt brought us back to the illustration of the "Prince" living under a bridge.
 - **Recap:** In weeks 1 & 2, we saw that this Prince has the status (he is a son, not a pauper) and the supply (the trust fund is full).
 - **The Trap:** The danger now is "Passive Christianity (apathy)." Imagine if that prince looked at his bank statement and said, *"Well, I'm rich, so I guess I'll just stay under this bridge and do nothing."* It sounds absurd, but we do this when we say, *"Let Go and Let God"* (which is the opposite of biblical Christianity).
 - **The Truth:** We often treat God's power like a **pillow** to sleep on, rather than a **battery** to run on. But as we look at verse 5, we see that **grace is not opposed to effort; it is opposed to earning**.
 - **Discuss:** Does that distinction (earning vs. effort) make sense to you? How does viewing effort as "gratitude" change the way you feel about spiritual disciplines?

II. The Mandate: Earning vs. Effort (Verse 5a)

- **Read:** 2 Peter 1:5a and Philippians 2:12-13. **Then Discuss:** Pastor Matt made a sharp distinction between *earning* (which is forbidden/cannot be done) and *effort* (which is commanded).
 - In your own words, how would you explain the difference to a new believer?
 - Why do we often swing between the two extremes of **legalism** (I must work to be saved) and **laziness/apathy** (God does it all, so I do nothing)?
- **The Patron Metaphor:** We learned that the word "Supplement" refers to a choir director or patron who lavishly pays for a production.
 - If Jesus is the "Patron" who supplied the resources, what is our role?

- Does knowing the "bill is paid" make you want to work harder or less hard? Why?

III. The Music: The Symphony of Virtues (Verses 5b-7)

- **The List:** Look at the progression of virtues Peter lists.
 - *Faith -> Virtue -> Knowledge -> Self-Control -> Steadfastness -> Godliness -> Brotherly Affection -> Love.*
- **Deep Dive:**
 - **Virtue:** Virtue is "moral courage." Where in your life right now do you need the grit to say "no" when everyone else is saying "yes"?
 - **Knowledge:** Why does Peter say we need to add knowledge to our virtue? Can you think of a time when you had "zeal without knowledge" (Proverbs 19:2; Romans 10:2)?
 - **Self-Control:** Pastor Matt mentioned that self-control is "mastering" our impulses (1 Corinthians 9:27). What is one area (tongue, temper, technology, time) where you need the Spirit's help to "hold yourself in by the Spirit's power and your purposefulness" this week?
 - **Steadfastness:** This means "remaining under the weight." Is there a situation you are currently tempted to "quit" (a relationship, a ministry, a job, a spiritual discipline)? What would it look like to "stay under" it with God's strength?

IV. Conclusion: The Full Orchestra

- **The Warning:** Pastor Matt reminded us that:
 - *Stopping at Faith = Infant*
 - *Stopping at Knowledge = Pharisee*
 - *Stopping at Self-Control = Stoic*
 - *Pushing to Love = Christ-likeness*
- **Personal Reflection:** Which of those "stops" is the most dangerous for you personally? Do you tend to get stuck in your head (knowledge) or stuck in your willpower (self-control)?
- **A "Get To" Mindset:** Since Jesus has "lavishly supplied" the resources for this change, what is **one specific way** you can "supplement" your faith this week? (e.g., 1. "By God's gracious provision and my Spirit-directed effort, I will read my Bible for 10 minutes before opening Instagram to add knowledge," or 2. "By God's gracious provision and my Spirit-directed effort, I will hold my tongue when criticized to add self-control." 3. "By God's gracious provision and my Spirit-directed effort, I will sacrificially lay down my life (desires) for my spouse/child/brother or sister at Oak Grove/neighbor **by** ____)."

In prayer together, confess the areas where we have been "nearsighted" (2 Peter 1:9), forgetting the cleansing we have received.

- **Thank** Jesus for being the "Great Patron" who supplied the resources for our holiness.
- **Ask** for the Spirit to empower one specific virtue in each person's life this week.