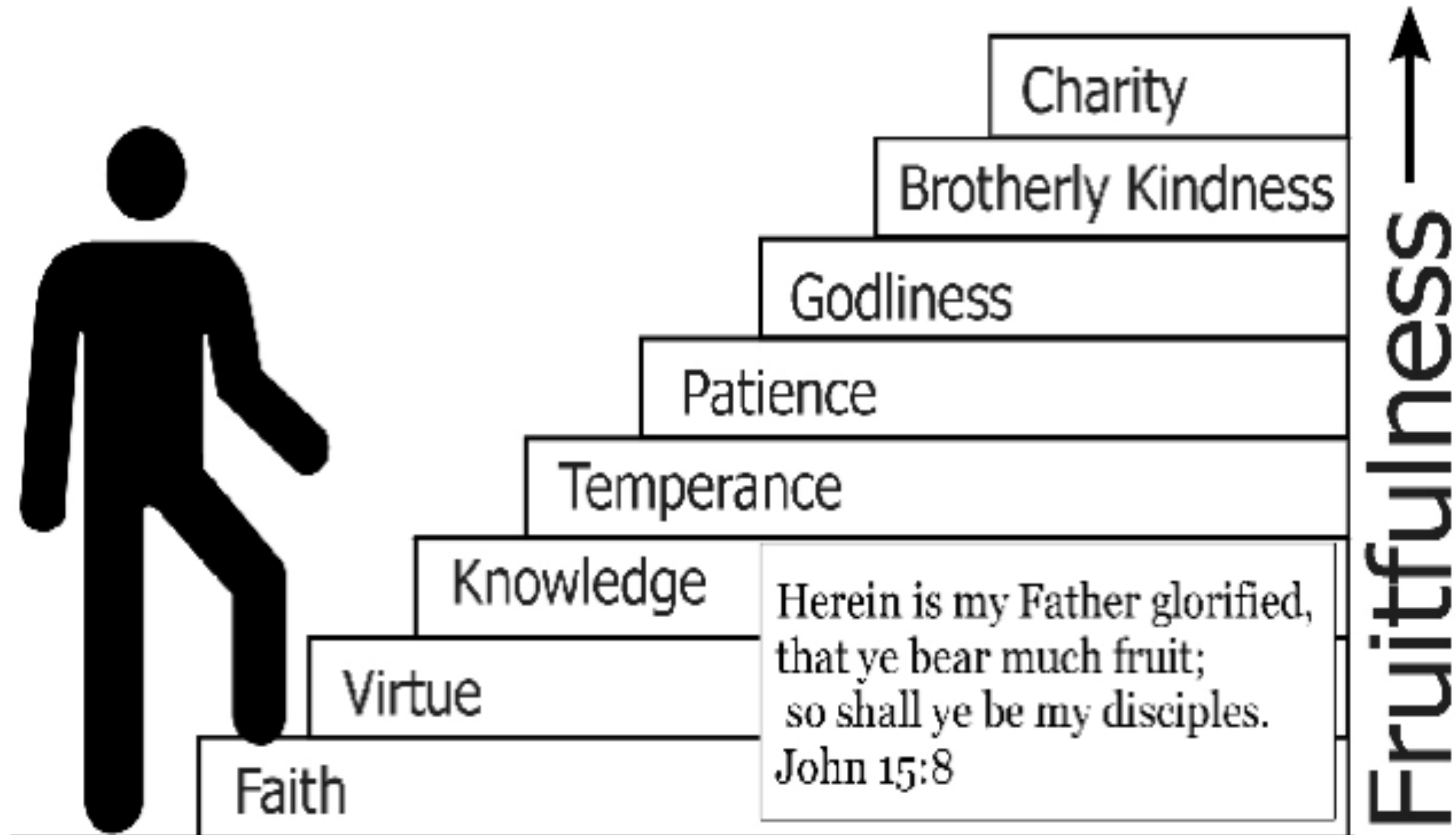


Growing in Faith

The first step is FAITH: Acts 27:25



What is FAITH

- Faith is **believing God's Word and trusting and depending on God** for all life needs.
- You start with faith as the first step, and then constantly add to it, and practice it.
- The Christian is saved by faith. Ephesians 2:8
- And the Christian continues to live by **faith**. That's the only way to live. 2 Corinthians 5:7 says, "***We walk by faith, not by sight.***"
- Fear, worry, anxiety are the opposite of faith. Many people say, "We're worried about what's happening in the world. We don't live by what is happening in the world, the media, or by what we see, hear, feel etc."

Is there right and wrong believing?

Hebrews 11:1, 2 Peter 1:1

- Blind faith, guessing kind of faith, hoping, trying, wishing for something to happen, with no idea and no guarantee that it will happen
- A neglecting faith that leaves firm beliefs to parents, and to pastors Don't try and ride on ANYONE'S spiritual coat-tails!
- Trusting ANY other source for truth other than the Bible – period!
 - a. Your Experiences – “well, I know what I saw...”
 - b. Your Feelings – “I just can get over how I feel...”
 - c. Your Past – “How could God ever forgive ME?”
- Real Faith has substance – it is the substance of my hope – it is built upon the facts of things you have not seen (Job 26:7; Isa 40:22)
- Real faith is precious (rare) – so many claim to “believe” but all they do is “go along with what they are taught” – they have the faith of devils (James 2:19).
 - a. Not everyone who says Lord Lord (talks spiritual) is a child of God
 - b. Not everyone who prays and tries their hardest is going to heaven
 - c. It is rare to find someone with the faith of a child
 - d. The FIRST step here is to GET YOUR FAITH RIGHT!

How do you grow your faith?

Romans 10:17

- **Constantly Feed it** (Rom 10:17) Devour the Word, don't starve your faith. Are you snacking, once in a while when convenient or being spoon fed every Sunday?
- **Constantly Force it** – use your faith. Obey God's Word. Rest on Jesus and his promises.
- **Constantly Fight with it** 2 Cor 10:3-5, train yourself to think like the Word.
- **Constantly Live in it:** Faith is not something in a Book, or a creed to memorise: it is the key to the unseen world of the Spirit-filled life of the believer that walks above the world, and above the trials, and above the limitations of the flesh.

What are the effects of faith?

- Accesses the free gift of forgiveness and salvation from hell (Eph 2:8,9)
- Accesses **peace** with God (Rom 5:1)
- Pleases God – not your efforts, but your faith in Him (Heb 11:6)
- Gets answers to your prayers (Mk 11:24)
- Brings all good things into your life (2Pet 1:3) just by personally knowing Jesus!

Where is your faith?

- Do you have any? Has it been stolen, been run over, been ruined by sin, and the world? Thankfully, according to Hebrews 12:2, Jesus is the author **and the finisher** of our faith
- So. How big is your faith? I think all of us need some serious boosting, some serious growth in the area of our trust in God, and His word
- This week, we all need to take a good look in this Book of books, and read it tonight and stay reading it until our faith starts shining bright and strong no matter how dark the night!