



What's In Your Toolbox

By Johnny Caruso on September 8, 2022

TODAY'S READING: 2 Peter 1

I liked tools when I was younger. Because we did not have the money to pay someone else, I taught myself how to fix our cars and stuff around the house. That does not mean I was always successful. There were times I tried to fix the car and had to call a wrecker to tow it to the mechanic (we did not have the luxury of YouTube). Consequently, I have a lot of tools—wrenches, pliers, screwdrivers. I enjoy going to garage sales and buying tools even though I already have plenty. There are not many situations where I do not have the tools I need to complete the job.

In today's scripture Peter is talking about a different set of tools:

- Do I have what it takes to live the mature, holy life Christ wants me to live?
- Am I fully equipped to be the spouse, parent, coworker, church member and neighbor who relates to others in a way that pleases Christ?
- Can I help in situations where spiritual "repairs" are needed—because of the spiritual tools I have available and know how to use?

In verse 3 Peter tells us that God has given us the tools: *"His divine power has given us everything required for life and godliness through the knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and goodness."* Think about it, as believers we have *everything required for life and godliness*. Everything. Nothing is lacking. The toolbox is full and complete! The Spirit of power living in us gives us all the spiritual tools we need to live the holy, mature lives Christ expects. Even better than that, whenever relationships start to fall apart or just need some maintenance, we have the tools to make repairs.

But tools that just sit in the toolbox are not very useful. That is why Peter urges believers to *"make every effort"* (1:5) to use and build up the spiritual resources Christ makes available to us when we put our faith in Him. Interesting that the list of resources Peter identified in verses 5-7 are very similar to what Paul described as the fruits of the Spirit. These resources include faith, goodness, knowledge, self-control, endurance, godliness, brotherly affection and love. According to Peter, *"if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they will keep you from being unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ"* (2 Peter 1:8). It is always good from time to time to see what is in your spiritual toolbox.

PRAYER: Father, thank You for equipping us with the things we need to live a holy life honoring and glorifying You.

TOMORROW'S READING: 2 Peter 2

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