

MAKE EVERY EFFORT: Your Fruitful Year Awaits!

Before diving into the busy days ahead, take a moment to pause and reflect. There's a powerful message waiting for you, one that reminds us of the incredible strength and resources God has already given each of us. As you read the verses that follow, listen closely to the promise that you are fully equipped for the journey ahead. This equipping is not the result of your own effort; it comes from God's divine power.

Read [2 Peter 1:3-4](#).

According to these verses, how do we receive everything we need?

What does “knowledge of God” mean to you?

In the Bible, the knowledge of God is closely tied to relationship with God. God gives knowledge to those who love Him. It is a little like our human relationships. The closer we get to someone, the more we know that person, and the more we get to know him or her, the closer we become. As we grow in the knowledge of God, we learn more about His will, His works, and His character.

Read [2 Peter 1:5-8](#).

Peter taught that in order to live fruitful lives, we must “make every effort” to add certain qualities to our faith. What were the qualities he listed?

Reflect on each of these qualities. Which one do you most want to focus on cultivating in your life and teaching this year? Why?

If Jesus lives in your heart, you share in God's divine nature. Let that truth really sink in. These qualities, or “growth targets,” aren't extra credit for so-called *super-Christians*. They are for every believer. God stands ready to equip and empower you every step of the way. He does this not so you can become a “better person” by the world's standards but so you can experience the very presence of God in your life. In turn, His presence overflows into the lives of those around you. So, lean in, make every effort, and step into what could be your most fruitful year yet!

Lord, thank You for equipping me with everything I need for this school year. Help me to rely on Your power and promises when I feel weak or uncertain. Fill me with Your Spirit so that Your love, joy, and peace will overflow through me to my students and colleagues. Guard my heart against distractions and worldly pressures, and remind me daily that I am called for Your glory. Use me, Lord, to share Your light and truth in every moment. Amen.

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