

FINDING BALANCE

Two of my daughters are fans of an animated series titled, *Avatar: The Last Airbender*. The show is set in a world where there are four nations which are based upon the four ancient elements - air, water, earth, and fire. Within these nations are people who have the ability to control one of the elements. These gifted individuals are called “benders” (water-bender, fire-bender, etc.). Once in a lifetime, there is one born who has the ability to master all four elements. This person is known as the Avatar, master of all the elements. He or she has the responsibility of keeping balance in the world. Only by learning to control each one of the elements are they able to fully realize their power and fulfill their destiny.

One of my daughters mentioned that she was thinking about how the Avatar having to add the knowledge and skill of controlling each element reminded her of how Christians are supposed to be adding certain things to their lives as well. In 2 Peter 1:5-8, Peter writes, *For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ (ESV).*

It’s so easy for our lives to become unbalanced when we are not focused on the proper things. Troubles and worries can overwhelm us and keep us from adding the things that we should. Life is full of uncertainties. People are looking for things they can count on. Peter goes on to write in verse 10, *Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to make your calling and election sure, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall.*

That sounds pretty certain to me! That’s wonderful news. So, the question is am I adding all these qualities to my life. What if my life feels so out of balance that I don’t know where to start? What if I can’t add these things on my own? Peter gives us more good news - we don’t have to do it alone! Look at verse 3, *His (God’s) divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and excellence.*

We only have this lifetime to learn to trust God and be obedient to him. Whatever we need to give up, God’s power will help. Whatever we need to add to our lives, God’s power will help us.

Greg Surles