

2 Peter - Week 2

Knowing and Growing

2 Peter 1:5 For this very reason, adding your diligence [to the divine promises], employ every effort in exercising your faith to develop virtue (excellence, resolution, Christian energy), and in [exercising] virtue [develop] knowledge (intelligence), 6 And in [exercising] knowledge [develop] self-control, and in [exercising] self-control [develop] steadfastness (patience, endurance), and in [exercising] steadfastness [develop] godliness (piety), 7 And in [exercising] godliness [develop] brotherly affection, and in [exercising] brotherly affection [develop] Christian love. 8 For as these qualities are yours and increasingly abound in you, they will keep [you] from being idle or unfruitful unto the [full personal] knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed one). 9 For whoever lacks these qualities is blind, [spiritually] shortsighted, seeing only what is near to him, and has become oblivious [to the fact] that he was cleansed from his old sins. AMP

Webster: “To grow or cause to grow; become more socially advanced; **mature**; to exist, to experience or to possess what is already given to us”

- 2 Peter is talking about experiencing, by **training**, to develop all of the godly characteristics given to us.
- Where there is life there is **growth**.
- God has given us all we need for the godly life now. We must learn to apply ourselves to being **diligent** to use the means of grace for life He has given us.
- Notice: Spiritual growth is not **automatic**. It requires cooperation with God, the Spirit of God, and spiritual attentiveness and **application** of the truth we have been given.

Peter lists seven characteristics of the godly life.

- The word ADD really means to supply **generously**.
- The **pruning** process, I think, is just important as us developing the qualities of a Godly life.
- We are to put on all of the fruits of the spirit by **putting off** all the works of the flesh.
- Again, **cooperation** with God and His word are vital to our own spiritual growth.

1. **Virtue**

- We ought to make this a distinct and definite object, and **apply** ourselves to it as a thing to be accomplished.

- God intended, in this epistle, to excite and engage them to **advance** in grace and holiness.
 - Virtue is then releasing the **glory** of God, which lives in us, to do and be what God truly intended.
 - Virtue is not polishing up the old flesh or **human** qualities--no matter how good they might be—but developing **divine** qualities that make us complete in Christ.
2. Faith develops virtue and it helps to develop **knowledge**.
 - It means full knowledge or a knowledge that is **growing**.
 - In this context it can also mean practical knowledge or spiritual **discernment**.
 3. Knowledge leads to **self-control**.
 - The word also means **temperance**.
 - It refers to the mastery over all our evil inclinations and **appetites**.
 4. Self-control leads to **Steadfastness = Patience**
 - Self-control has to handle the **pleasures** of life; patience has to handle the **pressures** of life.
 5. Patience develops **godliness or Christ-likeness**
 - The Greek for godliness means to **worship** well.
 6. Godliness leads to brotherly **kindness**.
 7. Brotherly kindness develops Christian **love**.

Final Thoughts

- Every believer of God enjoys this precious faith given to us by God.
- The Holy Spirit of God enables a Christian to be **transformed** into the character of Christ.
- Pulling off these seven character traits requires obedience and **character**.