

Christian Graces

2 Pet. 1:5-7

Peter begins by identifying the source of all the needed items in Vs. 3, “see in that His divine power has granted to us everything that pertains to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by his own glory and excellence”.

Verse 3. According as his divine power hath given unto us. All the effects of the gospel on the human heart are, in the Scriptures, traced to the power of God. There are no moral means which have ever been used that have such power as the gospel; none through which God has done so much in changing the character and affecting the destiny of man.

All things that pertain unto life and godliness. Everything, nothing is lacking that we need

Through the knowledge of him. By a proper acquaintance with him, or by the right kind of knowledge of him.

John 17:3.

*Vs 3. This is life eternal. This is the source of eternal life; or it is in this manner that it is to be obtained. The knowledge of God and of his Son Jesus Christ is itself a source of unspeakable and eternal joy. *Comp. Joh 11:25; 6:63; 12:50.**

Might know thee. Expresses more than a mere speculative acquaintance with the character and perfections of God.

The only true God. The only God, in opposition to all false gods. What is said here is in opposition to idols, not to Jesus himself, who, in 1Jo 5:20, is called "the true God and eternal life."

And Jesus Christ. To know Jesus Christ is to have a practical impression of him as he is, to suffer his character and work to make their proper impression on the heart and life. and Mediator; the true Christian approaches him through the great Mediator, equal with the Father, who for us became incarnate, and died that he might reconcile us to God.

1 John 5:11-12 NKJV 11 And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. 12 He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

2Pet 1:3

That hath called to glory and virtue. when applied to moral excellence , as it is in 1Pe 1:5 of this chapter, it is perhaps with a reference to the energy, boldness, rigor, or courage which is needed to overcome our evil desires, and resisting allurements and temptations., the passage teaches that it is by a glorious Divine efficiency that we are called into the kingdom of God.

Peter continues in Vs. 4, we can only be [*partakers of the divine nature*] to the extent that we, as children of God have been diligent to build on our faith, adding virtue [purity], knowledge and self-control.

If these building blocks have been assembled, and are in use and growing, the results will be a builder that that is "*fertile and full of fruit in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.* (bbe) If we are not growing, Vs. 9 tells us we are childlike, immature, unskilled in the use of God's word, can't see afar (*no vision*) can't see the true nature and design of the gospel.

Peter continues "*hath forgotten that he was purified from his former sins*", that person doesn't remember his profession of faith in God and has not built on that faith.

Vs.5 "for this very reason", refers to the magnificent promises described in Vs.3-4 and requires us to apply all **diligence** [Webster-painstaking effort, zealous], to make a distinct and definite goal in our personal lives. , 2 Tim 2:15

Let's look at each of the building blocks:

Faith- A lifesaving faith believes the truths of God's word and embraces it with the heart and affection into sincere obedience demonstrated by a changed in life.

In Luke 17:5 Jesus' disciples ask "**increase our faith**", we find in Rom. 10:17 that the source of faith is the word of God. If we are to learn about God it will be through his word.

2 Cor. 5:7-walk by faith, not by sight- trust in God, committed to God

Verse 7. For we walk. To walk, denotes to live, to act, to conduct [one's self] in a certain way.

By faith. To walk by faith, is to live in the confident expectation of things that are to come; in the belief of the existence of unseen realities; and suffering them to influence us as if they were seen. The people of this world are influenced by the things that are seen.

1 Tim. 1:9—sincere FAITH- not vain, empty or worthless

Heb. 11:1—the assurance of hope but not yet seen

Heb. 11:6—without FAITH- impossible to please God—FAITH causes us to be seekers of God

James 2:17—FAITH- without works is dead, no one ever saved by a dead FAITH

1 John 5:4—FAITH- is the method of overcoming the world

VIRTURE- moral excellence, purity,[noble character]- we are to be pure in heart[thought, motive, and attitude] Matt. 5:8, 1Tim. 3:9

Pure in word-Eph. 4:29

Pure religion- Jas. 1:27

Pure in deed-1 Pet. 2:1-2

Keep yourself pure-1 Tim 5:22

COURAGE- in 2Pet. 1:5 the word means moral courage,

Endures persecution

Bears Burden

Stands for conviction

Died for Christ-

Psa. 56:4, Heb. 13:6, 1 Cor. 16:16, Eph. 6:10, Joshua 1:9, 24:15

KNOWLEDGE

Men can come to the Father-John 6"44-45

Made free- John 8:32 17:17

Increases strength-Heb. 5:12-14, Col. 1:10-11

Grace and peace multiplied- 2 Pet. 1:2

Escaped the world- 2Pet. 2:20

IGNORANCE-

Crucified Christ—Acts 3:17

Alienates us from God- Eph. 4:18

Will cause us to be lost- 2 Thess. 1:7-10

SELF-CONTROL- temperance, holding ones desires in check. The importance of self-control can be seen as we study the following passages:

Acts 24:25,

James 3:2

Jer. 35:6

Dan. 1:8

2 Tim 2:5

It is easy to see the value in studying 1 Cor. 9:27-29, and Gal 5:22-23.

One of mankind's greatest challenges is the control of the tongue. [Jas. 3:1-12: 1:19-20]

Controlling ones temper is also a great challenge, some help may come from Eph. 4:26, Psa. 37:8. And no greater need for self-control than ones desire [Cor. 6:12]

When self-control is **ABSENT** we see drunkenness [Noah] immorality [David] gluttony, retaliation, angry words,(Col. 3:8,and hasty deeds[Eccl. 5:2] which all are displeasing to God.

How can we increase our self-control?

Work at the job---1 Cor.9:24-27

Dethrone self--- Matt. 16:24, 2 Cor. 10:

Enthroned Christ--- Gal. 3:20

Think of others first--- 1 Cor. 10:23-33, Phil 2:3-5

2 Peter 1:6- self-control to **perseverance**, steadfastness-**patience** James 1:4 But let patience have her perfect work. Let it be fairly developed. Let it produce its appropriate effects without being hindered.

That ye may be perfect and entire. --"wanting nothing;" that is, that there may be nothing lacking to complete your character. Rendered perfect soundness.

Endure--2 Timothy 2:3 NKJV 3 You therefore must **endure** hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

2 Timothy 2:10 NKJV 10 Therefore I **endure** all things for the sake of the elect, that they also may **obtain the salvation** which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

2 Timothy 2:12 NKJV 12 If we endure, We shall also reign with Him. If we deny Him, He also will deny us.

Godliness- be God likeness1 Timothy 6:3 NKJV 3 If anyone teaches otherwise and does not consent to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which accords with **godliness**,

1 Timothy 6:5-6 NKJV 5 useless wranglings of men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth, who suppose that **godliness** is a means of gain. From such withdraw yourself. 6 **Now godliness with contentment is great gain.**

BROTHERKINDNESS – John 13:34-new commandment-1 Peter 1:22 NKJV 22 Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart,

1 Peter 3:8 NKJV 8 Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous;

1 Peter 4:8 NKJV 8 And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "love will cover a multitude of sins."

1 John 3:11 NKJV 11 For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another,

1 John 4:7 NKJV 7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

1. For what reason should add to our faith?

2. What lessons should we learn from 2 Tim 2:14-15?

3. How can we show our faith?

4. What is the meaning of 1 Cor. 5:17?

5. What is virtue? How can we see it?

6 .How can we" dare to stand like Joshua?

7. Why is ignorance so dangerous?

8. What happens when self-control is absent?

9. Give your best example of self-control?

10. Describe what it means to enthrone Christ.