

Add To Your Faith



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Whole Armour Of God

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Whole Armour Of God Ministries

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ADD TO YOUR FAITH

And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; (6) And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; (7) And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. (8) For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. (9) But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. (10) Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: (2 Peter 1:5-10)

Christian growth can be a difficult thing. The devil and the powers that now work in this world rage against the believer, and attack at every opportunity. There are so many different doctrinal teachings that it can be very confusing to know where one stands. Were it not for the Word and the Holy Ghost working in us to help us grow and discern, none of us would get far past, "I believe". But we do have the Word, and we do have the Holy Spirit to comfort and teach us. In this passage, Peter gives instruction to us all to add to our faith. We have believed, we are trusting in Christ, and now we need to add to that faith so we can begin to grow and get established and become fruitful branches of the vine ([John 15:1-8](#))

ADD TO YOUR FAITH VIRTUE

Virtue is defined in two ways, and interestingly enough, both apply. First, virtue means strength. Believers are to be strong in the Lord. That strength that comes from the knowledge that we are safe in Christ, and that we can do whatever God has planned for us through Him. It is this "virtue" strength that allows us to stand firm ([Ephesians 6:10](#); Phillipians 4:13). This same strength, as the medicinal power of a healing herb, is able to be shared when we exercise our faith ([Acts 27:25](#))

Virtue is also defined as moral goodness or excellence of character. It is the obedience to the Word, and to the law of Christ, that follows saving faith and regeneration. The believer's sanctification by the Holy Spirit produces a life of moral goodness, and excellence of character (Phillipians 4:8)

We add virtue to our faith by finding strength in God's Word, and by living a life of excellence of character and moral goodness. By exercising our faith, we can share with others and bring the message of the Gospel wherever we may go.

AND TO VIRTUE KNOWLEDGE

This is where the study of God's Word becomes essential. The Apostle John wrote, "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God." ([1 John 5:13](#))

Knowledge is defined as learning; the result of learning; and also a clear understanding of a thing.

The more we study God's Word, the more we begin to understand the overall message of the Bible, the more we begin to know the truth of its promises. To add knowledge to virtue is to add learning and clear understanding to the strength and excellence of character we exercise through faith in Christ.

AND TO KNOWLEDGE TEMPERANCE

Temperance is self-control; moderation. We are not to over-indulge in the things of this life, for that leads to lust and dependence upon things other than God. We must not abuse our liberties. We must exercise moderation and self-control, strive to be even-tempered, and polite.

Temperance is doing the right thing because it is the right thing to do. It is controlling one's appetites for pleasure and exercising moderation. Temperance is being calm in the storm, exercising the knowledge that God directs the winds, God feeds the raven, God gives life to the lily, and God will watch over us, and provide for us ([Luke 12:23-29](#)).

Temperance is NOT saying the first thing that comes to mind, but instead saying the right thing, the helpful thing, the needful thing for the moment; to be a blessing and a light instead of a stumbling block or a snare.

AND TO TEMPERANCE PATIENCE

Patience is defined as endurance, perseverance, the quality of waiting long for justice or expected good without discontent; the quality of bearing offenses and injuries without anger or revenge.

Patience, the ability to calmly wait for God's promises to be kept, comes from the knowledge that God keeps His promises. With patience, we can endure affliction and trouble because we know all things work together for them that love God ([Romans 8:28](#)). With patience, we faithfully pray for the needs of others, knowing that the effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much ([James 5:16](#)).

With patience, we endure the trials and hardship of life, expecting the promised return of the Lord Jesus at any moment, but knowing that, no matter how long we must wait, He is returning; and when He does, we will be with Him forever ([1 Thessalonians 4:16-18](#)).

Patience is the result of knowing the truth and exercising faith and self-control so we can allow God to work in us and through us for the benefit of our brethren, and to the lost. God's Word says that we should run our race with patience, meaning that we should move forward, enduring and pressing onward at all times ([Hebrews 12:1](#))

AND TO PATIENCE GODLINESS

What does it mean to be Godly? Webster defines Godly as "*Living in obedience to God's commands, from a principle of love to him and reverence of his character and precepts; religious; righteous; as a godly person.*"

From that, we can conclude that Godliness means to live in a way that is conformable to God's will for our lives, and in a way that conforms to God's commands. It means to be obedient to God in a committed, rather than compliant, way.

I have known, and now know, some Godly men and women. Upon observing them, there is no doubt that they are committed to God, and they live their lives in a way that leaves no doubt to anyone that they stand on God's Word. It is easy to see that they love God, and that they do their best to live as examples of holiness in love to everyone with whom they have contact each day.

This is not "outward show" Godliness, but rather "inward commitment" Godliness. They are loving, kind, people who live their lives as close to the cross as they can get. That's the Godliness that Peter encourages believers to add to patience. It is commitment, not compliance.

AND TO GODLINESS BROTHERLY KINDNESS

Christian brotherly love is at a higher level than just fraternal love, or even sibling love. As born again believers, we are born, by the Holy Spirit, into God's family, as children of God. We not only desire, but need to fellowship with our Christian brothers and sisters on a regular basis. We need to encourage and be encouraged. We need to give and receive blessings one to another. Brotherly love compels us to esteem our brethren above ourselves, and to see to their needs and provide whatever we can.

John wrote that we know we have passed from death unto life because we love the brethren, but he also wrote that anyone who does not love the brethren abides in death ([1 John 3:14](#)). He went on to warn that anyone who hates another is a murderer, and that eternal life does not abide in them ([1 John 3:15](#)). Further, he states that we should love the brethren enough to lay down our lives for them (*Sacrificial Love* [1 John 3:16](#)). Finally, he states that if we see a brother in need and refuse to help or show compassion, we do not possess the love of God in us. He warns that love for the brethren is evident in our deeds, not our words ([1 John 3:17-18](#))
As you can see from this passage in the Word of God, this is serious. Love for other Christians is a direct result of the Spiritual New Birth, through faith. It is serious business, and we should be committed to loving our brethren in deed, and not just in word.

AND TO BROTHERLY KINDNESS CHARITY

The Greek word used here is *agape*. Some have said it is the highest form of love, for it is a selfless, giving love. Charity ignores self and puts the needs of others first. Charity gives, regardless of the circumstances. Charity does not judge the recipient of its benefit to see if they be worthy. Rather it gives because it is the result of the greatest possible love, unconditional, giving, selfless love. Charity is a condition of the heart that motivates good works. If our good deeds are motivated by charity, they are gold, silver, precious stones. If our good deeds are motivated by anything else, they are worthless wood, hay, stubble. They profit us nothing ([1 Corinthians 13:1-8](#)) ([1 Corinthians 3:12-15](#)).

Charity is patient and kind. Charity does not envy or brag on oneself. Charity is not proud, does not misbehave, and does not seek one's own good. Charity is not easily provoked, does not think evil thoughts, and does not rejoice in sin and injustice, but rather rejoices in truth. Charity suffers, has faith, hopes, and endures; and charity never fails ([1 Corinthians 13:4-8](#)).

IF YE DO THESE THINGS, YE SHALL NEVER FALL

God's message in this scripture is that these things are necessary for Christian growth. He tells us that these things will ensure that we are not barren or unfruitful in the knowledge of Christ. The mission of the Church is not to be a political force, nor to be the conscience of the community. The mission of the Church is the same as it was in [Matthew 28:19-20](#) and in [Acts 1:8](#): Reach the lost, give them the Gospel, be witnesses of God's grace toward us. These things we add to our faith allow us to accomplish God's purpose for our lives, make us stronger by teaching us to become more dependent on our Father.

There is also a warning in this passage, that anyone who lacks these things is blind, short-sighted, and has forgotten that he was purged from his former sins. It is easy to go astray and be misled if we are in that condition. It is easier to be discouraged and want to give up when we stop growing and forget what God has done, and is doing, for us.

But, as Peter writes, "...if ye do these things, ye shall never fall". That's a great promise of God's Word. Add to your faith, as God has prescribed, and you shall never fall. Keep growing your character, keep learning from God's Word, keep working on self-control and moderation. Keep enduring patiently, stay committed to God's commands. Actively love the brethren, and fellowship with them in kindness. Finally, have charity, agape love. Love God with all your being, and love your neighbor as yourself. On those two commandments the whole Law is hung ([Deuteronomy 6:5](#); [Leviticus 19:18](#); [Matthew 22:37-40](#); [Romans 13:8-10](#))