Peter said… *"And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith..."* *(2Peter 1:5-7)*

INTRODUCTION

In Peter's last words, the Holy Spirit led him to write about seven things that must be added to your faith in order that you might be more fruitful for Jesus Christ and bring Him more glory. Tonight, we will explore the first one – **VIRTUE**. So, what is biblical virtue? And how do we add it to our faith? This is God's message for you tonight. Pay close attention and ask God to reveal His truth to you…

1. A biblical **DEFINITION** of *virtue*.

    ✓ Webster's 1828 Dictionary definition

    1) **Strength**; the substance or quality of physical bodies, by which they act or produce effects on other bodies. In decoctions, the virtues of plants are extracted. By long standing in the open air, the virtues are lost.

    2) **Bravery valor**. This was the predominant signification of *virtus* among the Romans.

    3) **Moral goodness or excellence**; the practice of moral duties and the abstaining from vice, or a conforming of life and conversation to the moral law of God.

    > Biblical *virtue* would be living a life of **moral excellence** by doing what is good and right and abstaining from vice and sins truly *from a sincere love of God and His laws*.

2. A biblical **STUDY** of *virtue*.

    ✓ The word "*virtue*" is found 7 times in 6 verses in the KJV – all in the New Testament.

    1) *Mark 5:30; Luke 6:19; Luke 8:46* – the 1st Mention and next 2 all relate to **JESUS**!
        ▪ Our Lord was *virtue* embodied – perfect and sinless – true moral excellence!
        ▪ God is *absolute virtue*; when sinners touched Him, they were healed!

    2) *Philippians 4:8*
        ▪ Virtue is one of two criteria given related to how you are to **THINK**.

    3) *2 Peter 1:3*
        ▪ Virtue is one of two aspects of your **CALLING**; God has called you to virtue!

    4) *2 Peter 1:5*
        ▪ Virtue is one of seven things that we are to diligently add to our faith.

Peter said… **"And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith..."** *(2Peter 1:5-7)*

- ✓ The word "*virtuous*" is found 4 times in the KJV.

  1) **Ruth 3:11; Prov 12:4; 31:10, 29** – all are found in the Old Testament.

     - <u>All</u> are related to a VIRTUOUS woman! (*Ruth* is an example then for all of us.)
     - God places a very high **VALUE** on a *virtuous* woman!

3. A practical **APPLICATION** of *virtue*.

- ✓ Virtue is a **CHARACTER** quality – something that can be learned and lived out.

  1) You <u>must</u> live with a **CONSCIENCE** void of offense towards God and man.

     - Salvation is your first step towards moral excellence! At once, your guilty conscience is purged. You can choose to live a life of virtue that is morally excellent. **Acts 24:16**

  2) You <u>must</u> live according to God's **STANDARDS** of *virtue* and *moral excellence*.

     - Because God is *absolute virtue*, He sets the standards for virtue. The Bible has the standard for *moral excellence*. **2Pet 1:3; 2Tim 3:16-17; Rom 10:17; Mt 5:48**

  3) You <u>must</u> **GROW** spiritually in your Christian life and in *moral excellence*.

     - When you grow in your faith and in obedience to the word of God, you will become more virtuous! **1Pet 2:2; Heb 5:12; 2Pet 1:5**

  4) You <u>must</u> **MEDITATE** on *virtuous* things.

     - Think on things that are good and right. If your mind is in the trash, you cannot live a virtuous life, and you will fail to live like you should. **2Pet 1:5; Phil 4:8; 1Cor 15:33**

  5) You <u>must</u> **VALUE** *virtue* and *moral excellence* above worldliness and riches.

     - According to God, it is difficult to find a virtuous woman. Virtuous people are hard to find! In Noah's time, only 8 were saved! Few find heaven! **Prov 31:10; Mt 6:19-21**

  6) You <u>must</u> strive to be **LIKE** Jesus Christ! **Mt 5:48; 2Cor 3:18**

     - Have you added virtue to <u>your</u> faith?

     - What does God want <u>you</u> to **START** doing right now?

     - What does God want <u>you</u> to **STOP** doing right now?

  Now, imagine what it will be like to see ABSOLUTE MORAL EXCELLENCE in person…

     - What will it be like when you see Jesus Christ with your own eyes?

     - The lost will see Him as Judge of the universe in their condemned state…