

L 2 ... Seven Qualities Authentic Christians Add to Their Faith

[2 Peter 1:5-11](#)

In this passage Peter lists seven qualities of an authentic Christian. He begins: *And beside this* ([1:5a](#)), which refers to verse four. There Peter tells us we have the privilege of participating in God's *divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust*. Therefore, we are to give *all diligence* to add certain qualities to our *faith* ([1:5b](#)).

Understanding and developing these seven qualities authentic Christians will add to their faith requires **two** actions:

Investigate the qualities (1:5c-7)

Quality #1: *Virtue* ([1:5c](#))

The word translated *virtue* (ARETĒ, ar-et-tay') means "moral excellence." It refers to high moral standards that surpass those of unbelievers. As Christians, we are to *be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation* ([Philip. 2:15a-b](#)).

Why, according to the last phrase of that verse?

We live in a world of moral darkness. That's why Jesus says we are to let our lights *shine before* others ([Mt 5:16a](#)). *Virtue* causes our lights to *shine* brightly in a morally dark world and is a result of the next quality.

Quality #2: *Knowledge* ([1:5d](#))

A life of *virtue* results from increased *knowledge* of God and His Son Jesus Christ. The word translated *knowledge* (GNOSIS, no'-sis) means "to acquire information." For us, it means seeking to know God and Christ better through an investigation, or study, of the Bible. We then have our minds properly enlightened by the truth of God's Word.

If you are an authentic Christian, how does [Colossians 3:10b](#) describe you?

The more we know about God, the more we will want to be like Him. People who don't want to study the Bible don't want to be like God. They want a god of their own making; that's why cults attract so many people with their perverted gospel. That's also why the prosperity gospel appeals to greedy, selfish people. However, *knowledge* of God's Word results in us becoming authentic Christians.

Authentic Christians add these qualities to their faith: *virtue*, *knowledge*, and ...

Quality #3: *Temperance* ([1:6a](#))

The word translated *temperance* refers to controlling our sinful passions. It is the ninth component of the fruit of the Spirit ([Gal. 5:23](#)). *Temperance* is in stark contrast to the lack of self-control and moral restraint in our culture.

How does [Romans 1:27a](#) describe the lack of *temperance* so prominent today?

Temperance refers to controlling our sinful desires in every area of life. To their faith, authentic Christians add *virtue, knowledge, temperance, and ...*

Quality #4: *Patience* ([1:6b](#))

The word translated *patience* (HUPOMONĒ, hoop-om-on-ay´) refers to staying on mission in the face of great trials or suffering. It is persevering in the midst of problems or persecution for the sake of the Gospel.

Biblical *patience*, or perseverance, doesn't simply accept and endure but looks beyond to the goal.

The Ultimate Example is Jesus.

What does [Hebrews 12:2b](#) record of Him?

Patience is courageously accepting life's problems because we have an eternal perspective. Qualities that authentic Christians add to their faith include: *virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, and ...*

Quality #5: *Godliness* ([1:6c](#))

As we discovered in our last lesson, the word translated *godliness* (EUSEBEIA, u-seb´-e-ah) means devout, pious, or doing only what pleases God. In our "politically correct" culture, no one wants to identify "godly" people, for they would have to be contrasted with the "ungodly."

To belittle those who would live a life of *godliness*, our hostile culture persecutes us by describing us with such words as: "sanctimonious," "self-righteous," "holier-than-thou," "homophobic," "moral dinosaurs," etc. It is very sad our culture doesn't know what truth found in [1 Timothy 6:6](#)?

The word translated *great* (MEGAS, meg´-as) is the word from which we get our word "mega." It is a part of our everyday language in words like megabyte, megahertz, or mega bucks. Today, it means "one million." The word *gain* could also be translated "wealth." All earthly wealth will one day be left behind. The only thing we will take with us into eternity is our character, which is *godliness*.

That's why Jesus makes what statement in [Matthew 6:20a](#)?

Authentic Christians add these qualities to their faith: *virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, and ...*

Quality #6: *Brotherly kindness* ([1:7a](#))

Flowing out of a life of *godliness* is *brotherly kindness*. This phrase translates the Greek word PHILADELPHIA, which means “brotherly love.” This word originally referred to love among family members. However, Peter expands the meaning to include the family of believers.

To their faith, authentic Christians add: *virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness*, and finally ...

Quality #7: *Charity* ([1:7b](#))

Charity (love) is the greatest of all the qualities. The word translated *charity* (AGAPĒ, uh-gah'-pay) refers to desiring the highest possible good for the one loved. It also includes being willing to sacrifice anything for the one loved. This is the kind of love God has for us.

How is it described in [Romans 5:8](#)?

To understand and develop these seven qualities authentic Christians will add to their faith, **investigate the qualities** and ...

Evaluate the reward for developing the qualities (1:8-11)

Peter writes about authentic Christians: *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* ([1:8](#)). We are not merely to possess *these things* but to continue growing in them throughout our Christian lives. If these qualities are not constantly abounding, we will become *barren* and *unfruitful* in our *knowledge* of the Lord.

Peter continues: *But he that lacketh these things is blind* ([1:9a](#)). The phrase *cannot see afar off* means a Christian who doesn't seek to grow in these qualities can see only things nearby—the things of this world. They are also *blind* to eternal things.

An inauthentic Christian is *blind* to what fact found in [1 Timothy 6:7](#)?

Inauthentic Christians are nearsighted and *blind* because they have *forgotten* they were *purged from their old sins* ([1:9b](#)). They have *forgotten* what Jesus did for them on the cross.

Wherefore the rather, Peter writes, *brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure* ([1:10a](#)). Peter is emphasizing the fact that God's *calling and election* (His saving us) is no excuse for a lack of effort in developing these seven qualities. Peter explains: *for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall* ([1:10b](#)). The word translated *fall* (PTATIŌ, puh-tah'-oh) means “to stumble.”

If we continue to grow in these seven qualities, we will not stumble in our Christian walk. Therefore, Peter writes, *For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ* ([1:11](#)). This means, in heaven, God has a grand welcome awaiting authentic Christians.

Included in this welcome will be hearing our Lord say what words found in [Matthew 25:21b](#)?

To understand and develop seven qualities authentic Christians will add to their faith,

INVESTIGATE THE QUALITIES

EVALUATE THE REWARD FOR DEVELOPING THE QUALITIES.