

I can pray this because his divine power has bestowed on us everything necessary for life and godliness through the rich knowledge of the one who called us by his own glory and excellence.

2 Peter 1: 5-11 “For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith excellence, to excellence, knowledge; ⁶ to knowledge, self-control; to self-control, perseverance; to perseverance, godliness; ⁷ to godliness, brotherly affection; to brotherly affection, unselfish love. ⁸ For if these things are really yours and are continually increasing, they will keep you from becoming ineffective and unproductive in your pursuit of knowing our Lord Jesus Christ more intimately. ⁹ But concerning the one who lacks such things—he is blind. That is to say, he is nearsighted, since he has forgotten about the cleansing of his past sins. ¹⁰ Therefore, brothers and sisters, make every effort to be sure of your calling and election. For by doing this you will never stumble into sin. ¹¹ For thus an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, will be richly provided for you.”

- **For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith**

Hebrews 11:1-2, 6 “Now faith is being sure of what we hope for, being convinced of what we do not see. For by it the people of old received God’s commendation.” (**Verse 6**) “Now without faith it is impossible to please him, for the one who approaches God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.”

- **Faith add excellence**

Excellence: very good of its kind : eminently good : FIRST-CLASS

Colossians 3:12-17 “Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with a heart of mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, **13** bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if someone happens to have a complaint against anyone else. Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also

forgive others. **14** And to all these virtues add love, which is the perfect bond. **15** Let the peace of Christ be in control in your heart (for you were in fact called as one body to this peace), and be thankful. **16** Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and exhorting one another with all wisdom, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, all with grace in your hearts to God. **17** And whatever you do in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”

- **To excellence, knowledge;**

The state or fact of knowing. Familiarity, awareness, or understanding gained through experience or study.

Proverbs 1:7 “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.”

Proverbs 9:10 “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.”

- **To knowledge, self-control;**

The control of oneself; the ability to master one's desires and impulses

Galatians 5:2 “But the fruit of the Spirit isself-control.”

Philippians 4:13 “I am able to do all things through the one who strengthens me.”

1 Corinthians 9:24-27 “Do you not know that all the runners in a stadium compete, but only one receives the prize? So run to win. **25** Each competitor must exercise self-control in everything. They do it to receive a perishable crown, but we an imperishable one.

26 So I do not run uncertainly or box like one who hits only air. **27** Instead I subdue my body and make it my slave, so that after preaching to others I myself will not be disqualified.”

- **To self-control, perseverance**

Steady persistence in adhering to a course of action, a belief, or a purpose; steadfastness.

James 1:2-4 "Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, **3** because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. **4** Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything."

Hebrews 12:1 "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us."

- **To perseverance, godliness**

The character or quality of being godly; conformity to the will and law of God; piety.

1 Timothy 4:8 "For while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come."

- **To godliness, brotherly affection**

A fond concern for one another.

Romans 12:9-10 "Love must be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil, cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another with mutual love, showing eagerness in honoring one another."

Philippians 2:3 "Instead of being motivated by selfish ambition or vanity, each of you should, in humility, be moved to treat one another as more important than yourself."

- **To brotherly affection, unselfish love.**

1 Corinthians 13:4-8 "Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away."

- **For if these things are really yours and are continually increasing**
Maturity is not how much you've grown but how much you're growing.
- **They will keep you from becoming ineffective and unproductive in your pursuit of knowing our Lord Jesus Christ more intimately.**
Our pursuit of Christ should yield an outcome of:
 - Effectiveness
 - Productivity
 - Intimacy
- **But concerning the one who lacks such things—he is blind. That is to say, he is nearsighted, since he has forgotten about the cleansing of his past sins.**
Matthew 15:14 "Let them alone; they are blind guides. And if the blind lead the blind, both will fall into a pit."
Acts 26:17-18 "I will rescue you from your own people and from the Gentiles, to whom I am sending you To open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me."
- **Therefore, brothers and sisters, make every effort to be sure of your calling and election. For by doing this you will never stumble into sin. For thus an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, will be richly provided for you.**
Rom.12:1-2 "Therefore I exhort you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a sacrifice—alive, holy, and pleasing to God—which is your reasonable service. Do not be conformed to this present world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may test and approve what is the will of God —what is good and well-pleasing and perfect."

1 Peter 1:3-6 “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he gave us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, **4** that is, into an inheritance imperishable, undefiled, and unfading. It is reserved in heaven for you, **5** who by God’s power are protected through faith **for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.** **6** This brings you great joy, although you may have to suffer for a short time in various trials.”