

2 Peter 1:5-11

Verse 5

Now for this very reason – Because God has granted to us “*everything pertaining to life and godliness*” we are now responsible to draw upon these provisions to build godly character in our lives.

Applying all diligence - Spirituality is a choice! It does not come automatically or inevitably! God has given all the resources but we must be diligent to apply them in our lives.

In your faith supply – Every believer begins with faith. Faith for eternal life and also faith for the Christian life, (Hebrews 11:6).

Verses 5-7

Peter now lists seven characteristics or virtues that must be built upon our faith.

- 1 – *Virtue* – This word generally means moral excellence. We begin to build on our faith with a lifestyle that is characterized as highly moral and ethical.
- 2 – *Knowledge (gnosis)* – This word refers to acquired information. Specifically believers need to know what God has revealed in His Word. We not only need to do what is right but we also must understand why it is right. God wants us not only to *do* but to also to *discern!*
- 3 – *Self-control* – This word refers to “disciplined moderation”. It is balanced self-discipline in all that we do. Our virtue and knowledge of God’s Word should lead to self-control.
- 4 – *Perseverance* – The word literally means to “remain under”. It is patient endurance when we encounter adversity. When virtue, knowledge, and self-control are put to the test we must learn to persevere.
- 5 – *Godliness* – This word means reverence, loyalty or fear of God. It speaks of the awe in which God should be held. Trials in our life should produce in us a deepening reverence and awe of God as we see His provision in our lives.
- 6 – *Brotherly kindness (philadelphia)* – Literally, *brotherly love*. This speaks of thoughtful consideration of other believers. It flows out of growth in the previous virtues.
- 7 – *Love (agape)* – The highest form of love that seeks the welfare of the person loved. This love moves beyond fellow believers to all men.

Verse 8

For if these qualities are yours and are increasing – Our Christian life can never be static. We should always be growing in the seven virtues that he has reminded us of. We never “arrive” until we go to be with the Lord. Paul reminds us of the same principle in 1 Corinthians 10:12.

They render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ – These are the positive results of growing in the previous character traits. The word translated “useless” carries the idea of “idle” or even “lazy”. Fruitfulness will also be a characteristic of the believer who grows in these traits. The active believer will also gain a deeper knowledge and relationship with the Lord Jesus. These seven character traits are actually a picture of the life of Jesus. We may be active without these qualities but we will not be fruitful.

Verse 9

For he who lacks these qualities is blind or shortsighted having forgotten his purification from his former sins – Peter now gives the negative outcome of not growing in these seven traits. Three results will be manifested:

Blind – Spiritual blindness in that he does not see the reality of life as God does.

Shortsighted (Greek *myopazo* from which we get the word *myopia*). They are shortsighted about the future.

Having forgotten – This believer has neglected and lacks concern about his forgiveness in Christ. He fails to reflect on what the grace of God had done for him.

Verses 10-11

Therefore brethren – Peter now shows that there is a future reward for being diligent in pursuing a godly lifestyle.

Be all the more diligent – God gives us everything we need to be successful in the Christian life. However, we must be diligent to use the resources He has given.

To make certain about His calling and choosing you – *Make certain* carries the idea of “certifying or confirming”. This calling and choosing are not about a pre-temporal election to eternal salvation. All believers are called to share in Christ’s kingdom and glory. However not all believers are chosen to *co-reign!* Note the parallels in 2 Timothy 2:12 and Romans 8:17.

For as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble – By putting to practice the qualities of verses 5-7 we will not stumble on the path to eternal reward. Paul presents the same idea in 1 Corinthians 9:24-27. Our goal is to hear “*well done good and faithful servant!*”.

For in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you – All believers will enter the kingdom of Christ, but those who develop the character described in this section will have a special kind of entrance. The word translated *abundantly* means *richly*.

A wise believer will look back at his salvation, realize the divine resources God has given him and seek to live a life worthy of those resources. He will also look forward to the day of assessment and live in light of it!