

Lists of Christian Virtues

2 Peter 1:5-7	Romans 5:3-5	James 1:3-4	Gal. 5:22-23
Faith	Suffering	Testing (of faith)	Love
Virtue	Perseverance	Perseverance	Joy
Knowledge	Character	Maturity	Peace
Self-control	Hope	Complete	Patience
Steadfastness	Love	Not lacking anything	Kindness
Godliness		Love	Goodness
Brotherly kindness			Faithfulness
Love			Gentleness
			Self-control

Add to your faith: Brotherly Affection and Love

1. What is b _____ A _____ ?

2. Why will I r _____ it?

3. Agape Love, the true power for b _____ a _____.



Matt. 18:21-35 | The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant

²¹Then Peter came up and said to him, "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" ²²Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times.

²³"Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. ²⁵And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii,¹⁰ and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. ³²Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. ³⁵So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

2 Peter 1:1-15

Simeon Peter, a servant
and apostle of Jesus
Christ,

To those who have
obtained a faith of equal
standing with ours by the
righteousness of our God
and Savior Jesus Christ:
2 May grace and peace be
multiplied to you in the
knowledge of God and of
Jesus our Lord.

3 His divine power has
granted to us all things
that pertain to life and
godliness, through the
knowledge of him who
called us to his own glory
and excellence, 4 by which
he has granted to us his
precious and very great
promises, so that through
them you may become
partakers of the divine
nature, having escaped
from the corruption that
is in the world because of
sinful desire.

5 For this very reason,
make every effort to
supplement your faith
with **virtue**, and virtue
with **knowledge**,
6 and knowledge
with **self-control**,
and self-control

make every effort to supplement your faith: Because of what has been done for believers (our escape from corruption, v.4) is being done for them (participation in the divine nature) and will be done for them (promises that are yet to be fulfilled, see 1:11), we are to grow inwardly - to make "every effort to supplement". Peter now uses a literary device called 'sorites', in which each virtue leads to the next one in a stair-step structure. Peter's audience would have been familiar with this style. Virtue lists and vice lists (see chart), were common devices in Graeco-Roman rhetoric. Big point here: God does not infuse virtue into us intravenously; we need to make intentional plans, focus ourselves and "make every effort". In this passage, "The gifts of God are followed by our diligence, our diligence is followed by the entrance into the kingdom.(v.11)"

your faith with virtue: "Virtue or Goodness," refers to moral excellence (as in 1:3); when a Believer decides, because of the Grace they have received, to live a life of integrity and excellence. It's a readiness to do Godly things not do ungodly. It corresponds to the virtue of God, v. 4, which energetically repels all evil.

virtue with knowledge: The idea of knowing about God is preceded by the principle of living a life of integrity ("Virtue or moral excellence"), making the point that the disciplines of a faithful life lead to further understanding of God. "Knowledge" then informs our perception of what is useful or harmful, godly and ungodly, of what is to be done and to be avoided. It preserves us from indiscreet zeal and exaggerations. Knowledge is "the wisdom and discernment which the Christian needs for a virtuous life and which is progressively acquired."

and knowledge with self-control: Self-government that brings abstinence from the lust of the world. "It abstains from the evil it knows to identify, and in Christian liberty steadily bridles the desires and lusts of the eyes, flesh and boastful heart.

and self-control with steadfastness: The practice of self-bridling (self-control) leads to inner "steadfastness", endurance (in battle), temperance or perseverance. In the Christian world the term appears thirty-two times in the NT, for example, in Pauline virtue lists (Rom 5:3-4; 1 Tim 6:11; 2 Tim 3:10; Titus 2:2), James (Jas 1:3, 12; 5:11). It indicates endurance, but in a spiritual battle rather than in a physical

with **steadfastness**,
and steadfastness with
godliness, 7 and godliness
with **brotherly affection**, and
brotherly affection with **love**.

8 For if these qualities are yours
and are increasing, they keep you
from being ineffective or unfruitful
in the knowledge of our Lord
Jesus Christ. 9 For whoever lacks
these qualities is so nearsighted
that he is blind, having forgotten
that he was cleansed from his
former sins. 10 Therefore, brothers,
be all the more diligent to confirm
your calling and election, for if
you practice these qualities you
will never fall. 11 For in this way
there will be richly provided for
you an entrance into the eternal
kingdom of our Lord and Savior
Jesus Christ.

12 Therefore I intend always to
remind you of these qualities,
though you know them and are
established in the truth that you
have. 13 I think it right, as long as I
am in this body, to stir you up by
way of reminder, 14 since I know
that the putting off of my body
will be soon, as our Lord Jesus
Christ made clear to me. 15 And I
will make every effort so that after
my departure you may be able at
any time to recall these things.

Resources quoted, used and adapted for these notes and the sermon:

Davids, P. H. (2006). *The letters of 2 Peter and Jude*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Pub. Co. Barry, J. D., Mangum, ... Bomar, D. (2012, 2016). *Faithlife Study Bible*. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press. Lange, J. P., Schaff, (2008). *A commentary on the Holy Scriptures: 2 Peter*. Bellingham, WA: Logos Bible Software.

battle or an athletic contest. It is the virtue needed to stand firm in one's commitment to Jesus over the long haul in the face of persecution (thus its prominence in James and Revelation) or other hardships. In 2 Peter the need is to stand firm in their commitment in the face of the enticements of the teachers whom Peter opposes.

and steadfastness with godliness: Adding godliness (piety) means we consider God in control of our whole life, and hold him in such supreme honor, that we seek His approval in our actions and reactions.

and godliness with brotherly affection: The first of the clearly horizontally focused virtues is "brotherly affection or kindness", which would be better translated as "familial affection." This virtue would also not have sounded strange in the Greco-Roman world. The term indicated acts of affection and generosity among physical kin. What is unique in Christianity is that this familial love was extended to the whole church family; that is, all believers were treated as if they were physical kin - brothers and sisters.

and brotherly affection with love: The final item in our list, "love" (agapē), flows naturally from "kinship/familial affection." In 1 Corinthians 13 it is presented as the chief virtue, even greater than faith (which heads our list here). The important point to keep in mind is that love is a virtue, not an emotion. Christians are not being encouraged to feel warmly about each other or even to like one another; they are instructed to act lovingly toward one another. Thus Paul's description of love in 1 Corinthians 13 speaks about what love does, how it acts, not how it feels.