

## THE CHRISTIAN GRACES 2 PETER 1:1-11

### ✓ Giving All Diligence

- “Diligence” means “speed”, that is, (by implication) despatch, eagerness, earnestness” (Strong’s).
- Diligence is a theme of the Bible.
  - “Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it *are* the issues of life” (Proverbs 4:23).
  - “Therefore, as ye abound in every thing, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also” (2 Corinthians 8:7).
  - “And we desire that every one of you do show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end” (Hebrews 6:11).

### ✓ Add To Your Faith

- Faith is the foundation. By faith we have been justified (Romans 5:1); by it we walk (2 Corinthians 5:7); by it we please God (Hebrews 11:6); by it we overcome the world (1 John 5:4, 5).
- The same Greek word (here translated “add”) is translated “ministereth” in 2 Corinthians 9:10 and Galatians 3:5. It is also translated “ministered” in verse 11 of this passage.
- Faith comes by hearing (Romans 10:17).

### ✓ Virtue

- “Virtue” can be defined as “manliness (valor).” “True ‘virtue’ is not a tame and passive thing. It requires great energy and boldness, for its very essence is firmness, manliness, and independence” (Barnes). Paul said: “Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong” (1 Corinthians 16:13).
- This word also has the meaning of “excellence” (Strong’s). Why not strive for excellence? God gave us His excellent Son. We have an excellent hope. We live an excellent life. We await an excellent reward. We should strive to be excellent in our Christian life.

### ✓ Knowledge

- Peter points out the knowledge that we need in verse 3 of this text. We need knowledge of Him.
  - “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding” (Proverbs 9:10).
  - “The fear of the LORD is the instruction of wisdom; and before honor is humility” (Proverbs 15:33).
- Hosea said, “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children” (4:6).

✓ Temperance

- “Temperance” is usually said to be the same as “self-control.”
- “The word here refers to the mastery over all our evil inclinations and appetites. We are to allow none of them to obtain control over us” (Barnes). Clarke adds: “A proper and limited use of all earthly enjoyments, keeping every sense under proper restraints, and never permitting the animal part to subjugate the rational.” (Note: though I do not refer to man as an animal, we can understand this comment.)
- There is only one addiction that is accepted. “I beseech you, brethren, ye (know the house of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and that they have addicted themselves to the ministry of the saints,)” (1 Corinthians 16:15).
- Temperance has a close connection to righteousness and judgment (Acts 24:25).

✓ Patience

- “In your patience possess ye your souls” (Luke 21:19).
- “But in all things approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much **patience**, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses...” (2 Corinthians 6:4).
- “But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, **patience**” (2 Timothy 3:10).
- “And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh **patience**” (Romans 5:3). “Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh **patience**” (James 1:3).

✓ Godliness

- Adam Clarke says this is: “Piety towards God; a deep, reverential, religious fear; not only worshipping God with every becoming outward act, but adoring, loving, and magnifying him in the heart: a disposition indispensably necessary to salvation, but exceedingly rare among professors.”
- The Christians faces the challenge of becoming more like God every day. (See Romans 12:1, 2).

✓ Brotherly Kindness

- “Brotherly love” is a good definition of what is being described. This is the Greek word *philadelphia*. A form of this word is used in Hebrews 13:1-“Let brotherly love continue.”
- This love is natural. Cain’s murder of Abel broke from this norm. This natural love that should exist among Christians can also be broken. “Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him” (1 John 3:15). “If a man say, I love God, and **hateth** his **brother**, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his **brother** whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?” (1 John 4:20).

✓ Charity

- “Love to all mankind. There is to be a special affection for Christians as of the same family; there is to be a true and warm love, however, for all the race” (Barnes).
- This is an active love.