

Women's Bible Study  
 2Peter 1:7-9  
 April 3, 2024 Sharyn Balogh

**2Peter 1:7-8 and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

The Apostle Peter continues to list the qualities or characteristics found in someone who is seeking to follow God. As we look more closely at the last two attributes, it is good to be reminded that all are dependent upon each other or connected to one another. The description in whole is that of a believer. In other words, we cannot separate these characteristics apart from one another saying someone exhibits self-control yet lacks perseverance.

We ended with the quality of *godliness* a few weeks ago as we looked at 1Peter 1:6. This refers to holiness or righteous, not because of our own doing but because of Christ in us. A clear understanding of who God is will lead us to a desire to live pleasing to Him, following His commands, trusting in His plan, and being filled with joy for the blessings we are granted now and the future we are promised in eternity.

Consider the phrase '**brotherly kindness**'. This is having an affection for one another, having love for fellow believers, translated from the Greek word *philadelphia*. **Think! How do you exhibit love towards your brothers and sisters in Christ?**

Remember Peter's words in 1Peter 1:22, Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere **love of the brethren**, fervently love one another from the heart, also, 1 Peter 3:8, To sum up, all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, **brotherly**, kindhearted, and humble in spirit;

Romans 12:10 Be devoted to one another in **brotherly love**; give preference to one another in honor;

1Thessalonians 4:9 Now as to the **love of the brethren**, you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another;

Hebrews 13:1 Let **love of the brethren** continue.

Notice that brotherly kindness and love are closely connected. Brotherly love is the strong attachment we have with our family in Christ. **Love**, or *charity*, from the Greek word *agape*, is what we are to show to all people. We are not to be so separate in our love for one another that we discount those who have not yet been called to the throne of grace. "*True religion is neither selfish nor insulated; where the love of God is, bigotry cannot exist*", Adam Clarke's Commentary. Just because others may not believe as we do, does not excuse us from loving them and caring for them – with the hope of someday rejoicing in their salvation.

1Corinthians 13:1 If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have **love**, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

John 13:34-35 "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

1Thessalonians 3:12 and may the Lord cause you to increase and abound in love for one another, **and for all people**, just as we also do for you;

We are to have a continued love for all men without exception, building love upon love, unlimited in its reach. **How did God love us?**

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

Think of the commands Jesus gave, recorded in the book of Matthew.

Matthew 28:18-19 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

In following these commands, we are continuing to show God's love for others that all might be saved. **Do you love your enemies? Enough to share God's love for them? Or do you discount them as 'unsavable'?**

*"Or, a great love for all Christians, as being brethren in a more especial manner: "charity," or love for all men, enemies as well as friends, heathens as well as Christians", Dr. Wells.*

*"Every virtue is connected with every other: and all virtue with piety. For without the love of God to excite us, and the fear of God to restrain us, and the word of God to direct us, and the grace of God to strengthen us, we shall neither behave to our fellow-creatures, nor govern ourselves, in a proper manner", Abp. Secker, British Family Bible.*

Robertson's NT Word Pictures gives this explanation of *agape* love in 1Peter 1:7, "By deliberate choice (Mt 5:44). Love for Christ as the crown of all (1Pe 1:8) and so for all men. Love is the climax as Paul has it (1Co 13:13).

*Matthew 5:44 "But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,*

*1Peter 1:8 and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,*

*1Corinthians 13:13 But now faith, hope, love, abide these three; but the greatest of these is love.*

Diligence – faith – moral excellence – knowledge – self-control – perseverance – godliness – brotherly kindness – love.

**2Peter 1:8 For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

Our faith is active. **Are you continuously growing in the knowledge and understanding of your faith?** The opposite would be to remain stagnant or idle. Consider a garden. Either you keep it planted, watered, and fertilized, watching carefully for the weeds that try to choke the seedlings, or you ignore it, allowing the crop to become wilted and weak from lack of attention. Notice the wording in **2Peter 1:8, “For if these qualities are yours and are increasing”**. Growing in our faith requires effort, a desire to know God more and more so that we can apply His truths to our lives. *Think!* A child will grow in stature even if they are undernourished, yet they will not grow to their full potential unless they are given what is needed to keep them healthy.

The cause of your spiritual growth is your appetite for God’s truths; the evidence of your spiritual growth is the fruit or good works which flow from it.

**2Peter 1:9 For he who lacks these qualities is blind or short-sighted, having forgotten his purification from his former sins.**

The implication, “*for he*”, is that we need these spiritual graces in our life. It’s like saying, *because if he lacks these qualities*. If there is no evidence of fruit then we must wonder if we have truly understood God’s grace.

*1John 1:6-7 If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice truth; but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.*

*1Corinthians 13:2-3 If I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing.*

**Will your faith stand? Is it built on God’s truths?** The *Annotated Bible Notes* poses this statement, “*The absence of these Christian excellencies is a clear proof of either utter ignorance, or defective knowledge of the truth.*” The *Family Bible Notes* reads that one

who is spiritually blind “has very imperfect views of the nature and requirements of true religion, and of his obligations and duties as a professing Christian”.

*“But he, that lacketh these graces, is at the least purblind; not seeing heavenly things which are afar off, but earthly things only which are near at hand: having forgotten even the very first and main principles of Christianity; and namely this, that they were washed from their old sins by the layer of regeneration; persisting willfully in those evils, as if they had never been done away”, Hall’s Explication of Hard Texts.*

We need God’s grace. We are unable to please Him on our own. We need to open our eyes and look to His mercy and seriously consider how He would have us live for Him. If I believe in faith that Jesus died for my sin, I will not live helpless, a victim of sin’s control. **Is your gaze fixed on God’s promises?** If not, when we look ahead all we will see is the world around us and we are likely to follow what we see. Let’s not be forgetful of what Jesus has done for us – He alone is worthy of all our praise, all our life, all our affection, all our breath, and all our love.

Romans 6:1-4 What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it? Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? Therefore we have been buried with Him through Baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

**How will you apply the truths in 2Peter 1:7-9 to your daily life and circumstances? How are you encouraged? How are you challenged?**