

Woman's Bible Study  
2Peter 1:5  
March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Sharyn Balogh

2Peter 1:5 Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge,

Now for this very reason also – Because you have fellowship with God and are able to act in accordance with your salvation, let's step it up a notch! Beginning with your faith – is the foundation of your faith true knowledge? Will it cause you to stand in times of persecution or uncertainty? Do we truly understand who God is and what He has done for us? Verse three of 2Peter1 speaks of God's divine power granting to us everything pertaining to life and godliness; verse four tells of His precious and magnificent promises given to those who belong to Him. These gifts are ours because of God's grace. Are we using these blessings in earnest?

Applying all diligence – speed, eagerness, earnestness. *The Brethren NT Commentary* says it “*must be perseveringly exercised*”. It helps to remember what we have been saved from – the world's corruption – and what we have been saved to – ‘partakers of the Divine nature’. Once we have received the gift of God's grace through faith, we don't just sit back on our laurels and rest; we have work to do! Are you eager to grow your faith? Are you diligently seeking to follow and understand God more and more? Saving faith is more than just a key that opens a heart, it is a key which points the trajectory of a soul in a quest to become Christ-like, honoring Him in all things, striving to know and understand His ways.

2Peter 1:10 Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble;

2Peter 3:14 Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless,

Luke 13:24 "Strive to enter through the narrow door; for many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able.

The word ‘strive’ in the above verse means to compete for a prize, to labor fervently. Not that we earn our salvation, but a product of genuine

salvation is a heart which puts forth effort to grow in holiness and understanding of the God who saved them. Consider those things you want to accomplish. Maybe you want to walk more or travel or read a book. Nothing happens without our effort to put into place the things needed to move towards a goal. We won't walk more unless we begin putting one foot in front of the other; we won't travel unless we do what is necessary to plan a trip; we won't read a book unless we take time to open the cover.

The Apostle Peter will go on to begin listing the virtues of genuine faith. They build upon each other with one not necessarily being more important than the other. The Christians Peter is writing to have been supplied everything they need, now it's time to apply it. Our faith is not just a bunch of words or pretty promises we can turn to when times are difficult. Faith alone will do nothing for us unless it is placed in God. We can know a lot of things but what we know must be based on God's Truths and then put to use.

Titus 3:8 This is a trustworthy statement; and concerning these things I want you to speak confidently, so that those who have believed God will be careful to engage in good deeds. These things are good and profitable for men.

In your faith supply moral excellence – virtue. Is your faith equipped with excellence? Is the foundation of your faith built on God's truths? *Adam Clarke's Commentary* says virtue is the "Courage or fortitude, to enable you to profess the faith before men". Are you certain of your faith or do you buckle under pressure? True faith must come first, it is the foundation of all other virtues. Without faith we cannot please God.

Hebrews 11:6 And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

*"True virtue is not a tame and passive thing. It requires great energy and boldness, for its very essence is firmness, manliness, and independence", Albert Barnes' NT Commentary.*

Ephesians 4:13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.

Think of Hebrews Chapter 11 and what we refer to as ‘the heroes of the faith’. These accounts don’t give us examples of perfect people, instead we are given examples of standing strong and trusting in a perfect God, living for His glory. **We have been showered in God’s grace but are we living in His grace and growing in His grace?**

**1Corinthians 16:13 Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.**

**So when your world of comforts, convenience, and constancy seem to collapse from unexpected circumstances, will you stand in the certainty of Christ? Will you resolve to trust in His perfect plan?**

*“There would be no sense in saying you trusted Jesus if you would not take his advice”, C. S. Lewis.*

**Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.**

Although we can rest in the certainty of our salvation, depending on the promises of the Gospel, we should not relax in our salvation, using it as our death insurance to be taken out only when needed. We are to be diligent in our purpose to glorify God as we increase in holiness and understanding through obedience to His word.

**2Corinthians 7:1 Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.**

**2Peter 3:18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.**

**Psalm 119:4 You have ordained Your precepts, that we should keep them diligently.**

**John 6:27 "Do not work for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you, for on Him the Father, God, has set His seal."**

**And in your moral excellence, knowledge – literally to know, having the knowledge and wisdom of God. This is so much more than being able to**

recite scripture or reading every day and attending programs at church. It is knowing to understand and apply all that God says in His word. Our faith increases as our understanding increases. Having an accurate knowledge of who God is, what He has done, and what He has promised, will not only guide our faith in the right direction but will also keep us from being deceived by imposters. We cannot do what we do not know so it is imperative that we press forward to understand God's word. One commentary says this is the *"practical discrimination of good and evil; intelligent appreciation of what is the will of God in each detail of practice"*, Jamieson-Fausset-Brown.

Moral excellence/virtue/courage stems from accurate understanding of the Gospel. Faith, virtue, and knowledge all work together to help the Believer stand strong in the face of adversity. A practical knowledge of the word of God is necessary for our spiritual growth. *We can be convinced of many things but is our resolution based on Truth? Are our decisions directed by the word of God? Are we pursuing His will or our own desires?* The Apostle Paul recognized this problem in the church.

*Romans 10:2 For I testify about them that they have a zeal for God, but not in accordance with knowledge.*

*"They ought, furthermore, diligently "to add to their virtue, knowledge;" that, by an increasing acquaintance with the whole truth and will of God, they might be enabled to regulate their zeal and courage with judgment and discretion: knowing how to behave in all circumstances, and towards all men, like well-informed intelligent persons, who could not justly be charged with anything rash, foolish, or contrary to the duty of their place in the church or the community" Thomas Scott.*

*Philippians 1:9-11 And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve the things that are excellent, in order to be sincere and blameless until the day of Christ; having been filled with the fruit of righteousness which comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.*

*Do you know what God wants from you? Do you understand how you are to conduct yourself in all circumstances? Do you believe you can trust in His promises?*

Ephesians 4:14-15 As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ,

Ephesians 5:17 So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

Colossians 1:9-12 For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light.

We will not exhibit moral excellence and understanding in our faith without applying diligence. When our faith is properly grounded, then these characteristics and those Peter continues to list in the next two verses will be evident in our lives. In other words, these qualities cannot be separated from one another. We won't have self-control if we don't have understanding; we will not grow in godliness if we don't persevere.

If you have genuine fellowship with God, you will pursue holiness.

How are you doing, are you growing in your faith?