

Women's Bible Study

2Peter 1:6

March 20th, 2024 Sharyn Balogh

2Peter 1:1-6 Simon Peter, a bond-servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who have received a faith of the same kind as ours, by the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ: grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust. Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge, **and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness,**

Because of Christ's righteousness, because of God's grace, because of the faith which has been given to us, we have everything needed to live a life of godliness. We are no longer ruled by the world but instead we are blessed with the promises of God. When we diligently seek, by God's grace, to live by faith, our lives are characterized by moral excellence and the knowledge and understanding of God's ways. In 2Peter 1:6, the Apostle continues to list the combined character qualities of those who follow God – self-control, perseverance, and godliness. Although these qualities are listed separately they are dependent on each other or connected to one another. The whole is a description of one who follows Christ. Self-control will not be present without perseverance and godliness, etc. Yet in order to understand the depth of riches given to us, we will continue to look at each word individually.

Self-control, or temperance, is the wise use of those things available to us. To enjoy something with restraint is quite different than being controlled by something. Even good things can gain an unhealthy control in our lives. Think! We need food to fuel our bodies and some foods are quite pleasing to our palate. Yet, if all we think about is our next opportunity to eat or drink then we have become obsessed with food.

Consider where your fulfillment and happiness come from. Do you look to the world to please your senses, or do you look to God?

We must practice control of our passions and desires. Self-control determines the right use of all things lawful.

“As he who is not master of himself is not likely to be a good servant to God and a friend to man ... By intemperance men dishonor and debase themselves”, British Family Bible, Dr. Jortin.

So often, people may think if only they reach the next step in their career, or make the next million in their investments, or get a bigger house, live in a better place, have more obedient children, then their lives would be better. The pursuit then becomes one of obtaining these things at all costs. The pleasure of reaching certain goals in the world become more important than pleasing Christ and living for Him. It is often easy to recognize someone who is outwardly controlled by worldly passions – alcohol, drugs, sex, power.

What about your own heart pursuit? Are you willing to deny yourself and live for Christ?

Our life is not about what we want or desire; rather it is about what God commands.

Matthew 16:24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me. “For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. “For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?”

Matthew Poole’s Commentary says temperance is “a grace which represseth, and curbs in, not only sensual lusts, but all inordinate appetites”.

If there is something in your life which pulls you away from doing what is right, from being honest, trustworthy, and a good steward; if you are making choices which satisfy your own desires before helping another or instead of spending time with God; anything which blocks you from obedience in doing what God has said, is a foe in your pursuit of living as a partaker of God’s holiness.

Let's choose to live in God's graces and strength as we practice self-control in all things.

Perseverance, or patience, is cheerful or hopeful endurance, constancy, patient continuance or waiting.

Hebrews 6:11 And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence so as to realize the full assurance of hope until the end, so that you will not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

Hebrews 10:36 For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised. (v.32-37)

Hebrews 12:-21 Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

The message to us is to endure, to persevere, in all circumstances, with our eyes on Jesus and the future He has promised His children. The application of patience in our lives will cancel any thoughts of complaining or opposing God's will. Think of your responses to circumstances. Sometimes pleasant things are given to us and sometimes difficulties will present themselves. In all circumstances we can be constant in our purpose of glorifying God and in owning His promises to us. When we stand on His foundation of truth, we are not moved by the things around us. By being impatient, we allow circumstances to trouble us; when we respond with patience, we allow those same circumstances to become opportunities for growing in our faith. *"It is not to be mere stoical endurance, but united to [and flowing from] God-trusting", Alford, JFB Commentary.*

Perseverance/endurance can be really difficult! Those who have gone through one rough blow after another and just don't seem to catch a break; those who have experienced severe medical conditions or dire financial conditions; those who have been lied to, cheated on, and stolen

from or someone whose character has been maligned by another – these are all incredibly hard circumstances to persevere in with a godly attitude. Yet, it is possible because Christ in us is larger than any problem we may face.

The *People's New Testament Commentary* uses the word *unflinching* in their explanation of patient endurance. Unflinching means to not shrink from danger; to not blink, to not be intimidated. When we think of who God is and keep those thoughts in the forefront of our mind, then any intimidation we might feel is unwarranted. It is amazing to consider that the God of all creation is the One who loves us, protects us, has a perfect plan for us, and is always faithful to His promises. Let's hold on tight to these truths as we practice perseverance in all circumstances.

Godliness, piety, holiness. This is righteousness – not from anything we are or have done – but because of Jesus in us. Refer back again to [2Peter1:3](#). God has given us all things needed to be holy. The question is not really that we need to pray for these things as much as we need to genuinely desire to use what we have been blessed with in Christ Jesus. Look at [2Peter1:9](#), *For he who lacks these qualities is blind or short-sighted, having forgotten his purification from his former sins.*

[1Timothy 4:7-8](#) *But have nothing to do with worldly fables fit only for old women. On the other hand, discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness; or bodily discipline is only of little profit, but godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.*

[1Timothy 6:11](#) *But flee from these things, you man of God, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness.*

“Not only worshipping God with every becoming outward act, but adoring, loving, and magnifying Him in the heart”, Adam Clarke's Commentary.

It is imperative that we understand that God is always present. He is our authority; our lives are to be lived for His glory continually; our serving is for His honor alone.

We can recite what is right and we can look good to others but is what you say stemming from your heart devoted to God?

Godliness; *“That fear of God, which will restrain you from sin; that love of Him which will constrain you to your duty; that conformity of will, which will cause your mind to approve of, your heart to affect and choose, what is according to His will, and your whole man to be exercising itself unto godliness”*, Dr. Whitby.

Consider. Living a life of godliness is more than just riding out the lumps and bumps of life, enduring till the end – it is trusting in God’s plan for all things and having joy in your heart for what is to come. We can be patient because we want to prove we are strong. This is different than patiently waiting upon God because we trust He is guiding all circumstances.

How are you practicing to live a life of godliness, pleasing to the Lord?