

Strong Christians

(Part 1)

2 Peter 1:1-11

1

What Makes A Christian Strong?

- It is evident that becoming strong is a necessary duty. 1 Peter 2:2; Ephesians 4:14-15; 1 Corinthians 16:13; Ephesians 6:10-17
- God wants his children to grow closer in our relationship to him. cf. James 4:7-8
- Strength needed ... Overview of 2 Peter.

2

What God Has Given Us

2 Peter 1:3-4

- All things that pertain unto life and godliness. 2 Timothy 3:16-17; cf. 1 Peter 4:11
- Through a knowledge of Jesus Christ. cf. 2 Timothy 1:12; Matthew 11:28-30
- "Precious & exceeding great promises." cf. Acts 2:38-39
- "Partakers of the divine nature." Galatians 2:20; 4:19-20

3

What We Are To Supply

2 Peter 1:5-7

1. **FAITH** is "conviction, strong assurance"
2. **VIRTUE** is "moral excellence, goodness"
3. **KNOWLEDGE** is "correct insight"
4. **SELF-CONTROL** is "self-discipline"
5. **PERSEVERANCE** (patience ASV) is "bearing up under trials"
6. **GODLINESS** is "godly character out of devotion to God"
7. **BROTHERLY KINDNESS** is "love toward brethren"
8. **LOVE** is "active goodwill toward those in need"

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Give "*diligence*" (verses 5, 10)

- Hebrews 6:11-12; Hebrews 11:6; 2 Peter 3:14; 2 Peter 1:10; 2 Timothy 2:15

Involves 3 things.

- a. Personal effort. cf. Romans 14:10-12
- b. Constant effort. 1 Corinthians 15:58
- c. Enthusiasm / Zeal. Titus 2:14

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"Adding on your part ..." "*Supply*"

2 Peter 1:5

"Add to your faith ..." "The verb rendered 'add' (Gk. *epichoreegeesate*) (NT:2023) is derived from *choros* (NT:5525), a 'chorus,' such as was employed in the representation of the Greek tragedies. The verb originally means 'to bear the expense of a chorus,' which was done by a person selected by the state, who was obliged to defray all the expenses of training and maintenance." (Vincent's Word Studies)

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What Is Necessary To Be A STRONG Christian?

- Add to your **"faith."** FAITH is the foundation of all other spiritual qualities.

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Add to your **"faith."**

FAITH is the foundation of all other spiritual qualities.

1. **What is "faith?"** Faith is the firm, unshaken confidence, **conviction** or belief in the truth of a proposition, a person, statement, based upon testimony (**evidence**) concerning them. cf. Hebrews 11:1,6
2. **How does "faith" come?** Romans 10:17
Application: cf. Acts 27:25; Hebrews 11
3. **Your job now to "be strong!"**

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Add (supply) to your faith **"virtue."**

- (Greek *arete*) "Moral goodness," excellence. Courage (manliness, 1 Corinthians 16:13) of faith. Used of God's power. 2 Peter 1:3
- The moral courage to do what is right!
- Positive area of growth to combat the pressures of sin! - cf. John 12:42-43

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Add (supply) to your faith **"virtue."**

Examples of virtue.

- a. Joseph said "NO," when tempted by Potiphar's wife. Genesis 39:7-9
- b. Daniel. Daniel 1:8; 6:10
- c. Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego. Daniel 3:13-18
- d. Apostles. Acts 4:19-20; 5:29

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And in (your) virtue **"knowledge"**

- (Greek *gnosis*) – moral wisdom, such as is seen in right living, Spoken of practical knowledge, discretion, prudence.
- We must grow in knowledge. Philippians 1:9-11; Colossians 1:9-10; 2 Peter 3:18; cf. Hosea 4:6; Hebrews 5:12

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And in (your) virtue **"knowledge"**

Areas in which we are to supply knowledge:

- Self –
 - One knows himself by looking into the mirror of God's word. James 1:23-25
- God –
 - To know God is to obey Him. 1 John 2:2-3
 - The Christian who continues in sin does not know God! 1 John 2:3-5; 3:6

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And in (your) virtue **"knowledge"**

How does one supply knowledge?

- Study! Psalms 119:104; 1:1-2; 2 Timothy 2:15
–No Short Cuts!
- Understanding! Ephesians 3:3-4; 5:15-17

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And in (your) knowledge **"self-control"**

- (Temperance KJV) (Greek *engkrateia*) – the virtue of one who masters his desires and passions, especially his sensual appetites): Acts 24:25; Galatians 5:22-23 (22)
- The good athlete must practice self-control. cf. Paul. 1 Corinthians 9:25-27
- Needed when we are tempted. James 1:13-15

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And in (your) self-control **"patience"**

- (Greek *"hupomenoo"*) – is associated with hope (1 Thessalonians 1:3; Romans 8:24-25) and refers to that quality of character which does not allow one to surrender to circumstances or succumb under trial.
- Thayer defines it as: (1.) steadfastness, constancy, endurance James 5:11 (2.) a patient, steadfast waiting for; (3.) a patient enduring, sustaining: 2 Corinthians 1:6
- cf. Hebrews 10:32-36; Isaiah 40:27ff

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And in (your) patience **"godliness"**

- (Greek *eusebeia*) The word means "reverence, respect piety toward God, godliness" (Thayer)
- Godliness is the practical side of religion ... it is profitable for all things. 1 Timothy 4:7-8; cf. Titus 2:11-12; Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

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And in (your) godliness **"brotherly kindness"**

- (Greek *philadelphía*), one who loves his brother. Brotherly love. In the NT, used of the love of Christians one to another, brotherly love out of a common spiritual life. Romans 12:10; Hebrews 13:1; 1 Peter 1:22
- It is founded upon "sense and emotion" ... the kind of love one has for his brother and friend. cf. John 21:15-17
- Becomes proof of our love for God. 1 John 4:20-5:1

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And in (your) brotherly kindness **"love"**

- (Greek *agápe*), Love, affectionate regard, goodwill, benevolence.
- "Unconquerable benevolence, undefeatable goodwill" (Barclay).

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And in (your) brotherly kindness "love"

- A deliberate desire (with corresponding action) for the greatest good of its object. cf. [1 John 4:7-11](#). It is: Caring enough to sacrifice for what is best!
- [1 Corinthians 13:1-8a, 13](#) - Love must motivate our actions, define our character and permanently abide in our lives!
- Capstone of all other spiritual qualities, love is found in all of them! [Matthew 22:37-38](#)

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Why We Must Be Strong?

- Failure to be strong results in spiritual short-sightedness [2 Peter 1:8-9](#)
- A failure to see what He wants us to become. cf. [Romans 8:29](#) "... be conformed to the image of his Son ..."

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Why Must We Be Strong?

- Being strong means we shall never stumble. [2 Peter 1:10](#)
 - "to fall into misery, become wretched; cf. the loss of salvation" (Thayer)
 - But this is true ONLY if we are "giving all diligence" to grow in the knowledge of Christ and thereby "making our calling and election sure."

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Why Must We Be Strong?

- Being strong means an entrance into the "everlasting kingdom" will be abundantly supplied. [2 Peter 1:11](#); cf. [2 Timothy 4:18](#); cf. [2 Timothy 4:6-8](#)

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