

## What Makes A Christian Strong?

2 Peter 1:1-11

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## 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

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## 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 and exceeding great promises.”* Acts 2:38-39
- *“Partakers of the divine nature.”* Galatians 2:20

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## 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)

- *“(an idiom, literally ‘to bring every effort to’) to do one’s very best in attempting to do something – ‘to do one’s best, to make every effort to, to try as hard as possible.’”*  
(Greek-English Lexicon Based on Semantic Domain.)

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## Give *“diligence”* (verses 5, 10)

### 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.

“(Greek *epichoreegeesate*) is derived from *choros*, a ‘chorus,’ such as was employed in the representation of the Greek tragedies. ‘to bear the expense of a chorus

...” (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.

How does “faith” come? Romans 10:17

Application: cf. Acts 27:25; Hebrews 11

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**Add (supply) to your faith “virtue.”**

- (Greek *arete*) “Moral goodness,” excellence. The moral courage to do what is right! - cf. John 12:42-43

– Joseph.

– Daniel.

– Apostles.

– Note: David’s correction of sin. 2 Samuel 12:13  
The Prodigal. Luke 15:21

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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. Hebrews 5:12
  - Knowledge of self. James 1:23-25
  - Knowledge of God. 1 John 4:7-8; 2:2-3
- 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 *philadelphia*), 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 *agape*), 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

Strong Christians  
Want To Go To Heaven

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