

What Makes A Christian Strong?

2 Peter 1:1-11

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- 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.

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." Acts 2:38-39
- "Partakers of the divine nature." Galatians 2:20

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"

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

"Adding on your part ..." "*Supply*" 2 Peter 1:5

"Add to your faith ." The verb rendered 'add' (Greek *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)

What Is Necessary To Be A STRONG Christian?

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

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
3. Your job now to "be strong!"

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

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
- e. Prodigal son. Luke 15:21

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

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

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

How does one supply knowledge?

- Study! [Psalms 119:104](#); [1:1-2](#); [2 Timothy 2:15](#)
- Understanding! [Ephesians 3:3-4](#); [5:15-17](#)

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](#)
- The good athlete must practice self-control. Cf. Paul. [1 Corinthians 9:25-27](#)
- Needed when we are tempted. [James 1:13-15](#)

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

- (Gk. "*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](#)

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](#)

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](#)

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

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

And in (your) brotherly kindness "love"

- A deliberate desire (w/ 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](#)

Why Must We 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](#)

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."

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](#)