

## What Makes A Christian Strong?

2 Peter 1:1-11

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- It is evident that becoming strong as a Christian 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. Romans 1:16-17; 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**

### 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 *epichoregeesate*) (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.

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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 concerning them. **cf. Hebrews 11:1, 6**
  - a. It is the “substance” ASV of things hoped for, the “evidence” of things not seen.
  - b. Faith is that which takes God at His word. **Hebrews 11**
2. **How does “faith” come? Romans 10:17**
  - a. Faith is produced by fact, not false testimony.
  - b. Contrast **Genesis 37:1-35; 45:25f**
  - c. Without faith the other qualities of spiritual maturity are unattainable! **2 Corinthians 5:7**
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; cf. Mark 5:30**
- The moral courage to live your faith, 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. One Less Carrot.

### And in (your) virtue **“knowledge”**

- (Greek *gnosis*) – moral wisdom, such as is seen in right living, **2 Peter 1:5**; 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 –
  - If you don’t know where you are, it is impossible to know where you are going.
  - One knows himself by looking into the mirror of God’s word. **James 1:23-25**
- God –
  - To know God is to love Him. **1 John 4:7-8**
  - To know God is to obey Him. **1 John 2:2-3** The Christian who continues in sin does not know God. **1 John 3:6**

### And in (your) virtue **“knowledge”**

How does one supply knowledge?

- Study! **Psalms 119:104; 1:2; 2 Timothy 2:15**
- Understanding! **Ephesians 3:3-4** Required to know when/how to exert moral courage!  
**Ephesians 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 (22); 2 Peter 1:6.**
- 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”**

- (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**

### And in (your) patience **“godliness”**

- (Greek *eusebeia*) The word means “reverence, respect piety toward God, godliness: **Acts 3:12.**” (Thayer)
- Godliness is the practical side of religion ... it is profitable for all things.  
**1 Timothy 4:7-8; cf. 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; 1 Thessalonians 4:9; Hebrews 13:1; 1 Peter 1:22; 2 Peter 1:7**
- 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; cf. Galatians 6:1**

### And in (your) brotherly kindness **“love”**

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

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

- A deliberate desire (with corresponding action) for the greatest good of its object (**Matthew 5:43-48**). cf. **1 John 4:7-11; 3:17-18** 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**; cf. **Romans 8:29; Colossians 3:5-11**

### 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**

