

## Additions to Faith

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*And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.*

– 2 Peter 1:5-7 –

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Salvation is by faith alone through grace alone. But a faith that saves will not remain alone. Spiritual growth accompanies genuine redemption. The process of sanctification is the sure and certain work of the Holy Ghost in tandem with the volitional action of the believer. We control the throttle. There are many graces that ought to characterize our redeemed lives, and it is very much our business to ensure that they do. Peter outlines seven (there are many more), and exhorts us to give all diligence to pattern our earthly lives after these things. It serves as a good checkpoint for our spiritual walk to consider all seven...

**Virtue** – as in moral behavior. Does my life exhibit the highest standard in terms of morality? Is there any dichotomy between my public and private actions? Are my thoughts, words, and deeds demonstrative of my Christ at all times?

**Knowledge.** What do I put into my head? Do I hunger after God's wisdom as revealed in His Word? Do I know more about the things of God, or things of the world?

**Temperance.** Do I exercise restraint in subjective matters? Are there things that I allow in my life that are not pleasing to God, not beneficial to fellow believers, or a bad testimony to lost souls?

**Patience.** Am I waiting for God to move, or am I self-willed? Do I rest upon His promises, or do I think He needs my help for Him to fulfill them for me?

**Godliness.** Do others see more of Jesus or me in my life? Am I known to be a genuine Christian?

**Brotherly kindness.** How earnest is my love for my spiritual brethren? Do I think the best of each of them? Am I annoyed by my church family, or do I seek to be of service to them in whatever way I possibly can?

**Charity.** How fervently do I love people? Jesus had compassion on the same multitude that ultimately crucified Him – do I have at least an inward desire to strive to do the same?

The Spirit tells us that if these things be in us and abound, we will be fruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus. Let us open the throttle and permit the Spirit to have His way in our lives, that our God may be glorified. --- D. Murcek