

# Add to your FAITH +

Goodness, Knowledge, Self-Control, Perseverance,  
Godliness, Brotherly Kindness, Love



The Gathering Place, 29<sup>th</sup> September 2019

Photo by [Aaron Burden](#) on [Unsplash](#)

## Luke 8:19-21

<sup>19</sup> And His mother and brothers came to Him, and they were unable to get to Him because of the crowd. <sup>20</sup> And it was reported to Him, “Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside, wishing to see You.” <sup>21</sup> But He answered and said to them, “My mother and My brothers are these who hear the word of God and do it.”

## Luke 11:27-28

<sup>27</sup> While Jesus was saying these things, one of the women in the crowd raised her voice and said to Him, “Blessed is the womb that bore You and the breasts at which You nursed.” <sup>28</sup> But He said, “On the contrary, blessed are those who hear the word of God and observe it.”

This was not about His mother and brothers.  
Jesus was intentionally teaching His disciples.

You want to be close to me? Intimately  
related to me like my mother and my  
brothers?

**THEN HEAR THE WORD OF GOD AND DO IT!**

## James 1:22-27

<sup>22</sup> But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. <sup>23</sup> For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; <sup>24</sup> for *once* he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. <sup>25</sup> But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the *law* of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does.

<sup>26</sup> If anyone thinks himself to be religious, and yet does not bridle his tongue but deceives his *own* heart, this man's religion is worthless.



## 2 Peter 1:1-9

Simon Peter, a bond-servant and apostle of Jesus Christ,

To those who have received a faith of the same kind as ours, by the righteousness of our God and Saviour, Jesus Christ: <sup>2</sup> Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; <sup>3</sup> seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.<sup>4</sup> For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of *the* divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.

## 2 Peter 1:1-9

<sup>5</sup> Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in *your* moral excellence, knowledge, <sup>6</sup> and in *your* knowledge, self-control, and in *your* self-control, perseverance, and in *your* perseverance, godliness, <sup>7</sup> and in *your* godliness, brotherly kindness, and in *your* brotherly kindness, love. <sup>8</sup> For if these *qualities* are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup> For he who lacks these *qualities* is blind *or* short-sighted, having forgotten *his* purification from his former sins.

# WORD MAPPING

## JAMES 1:22-27

<sup>22</sup> But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. <sup>23</sup> For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; <sup>24</sup> for *once* he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. <sup>25</sup> But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the *law* of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does.

<sup>26</sup> If anyone thinks himself to be religious, and yet does not bridle his tongue but deceives his *own* heart, this man's religion is worthless.

## 2 PETER 1:3-9

<sup>3</sup> seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. <sup>4</sup> For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of *the* divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust. Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in *your* moral excellence, knowledge, <sup>6</sup> and in *your* knowledge, self-control, and in *your* self-control, perseverance, and in *your* perseverance, godliness, <sup>7</sup> and in *your* godliness, brotherly kindness, and in *your* brotherly kindness, love. <sup>8</sup> For if these *qualities* are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup> For he who lacks these *qualities* is blind or short-sighted, having forgotten *his* purification from his former sins.

# Two kinds of believers:

- LOOKS INTENTLY AT THE LAW OF LIBERTY / SEES THAT GOD HAS GIVEN US ALL WE NEED
- DOERS OF THE WORD / HAS THE QUALITIES / MAKES EVERY EFFORT
- EFFECTUAL DOER / USEFUL / FRUITFUL

**HAS A SOLID FOUNDATION & CONTINUED BUILDING UPON IT**

- BLIND OR SHORT-SIGHTED / HAS FORGOTTEN
- MERELY HEARERS WHO DELUDE THEMSELVES / LACKS THESE QUALITIES
- FORGETFUL HEARER / HAS FORGOTTEN HIS PURIFICATION / USELESS / UNFRUITFUL

**HAS A SOLID FOUNDATION BUT BUILT NOTHING UPON IT**





Charity

Kindness

Godliness

Patience

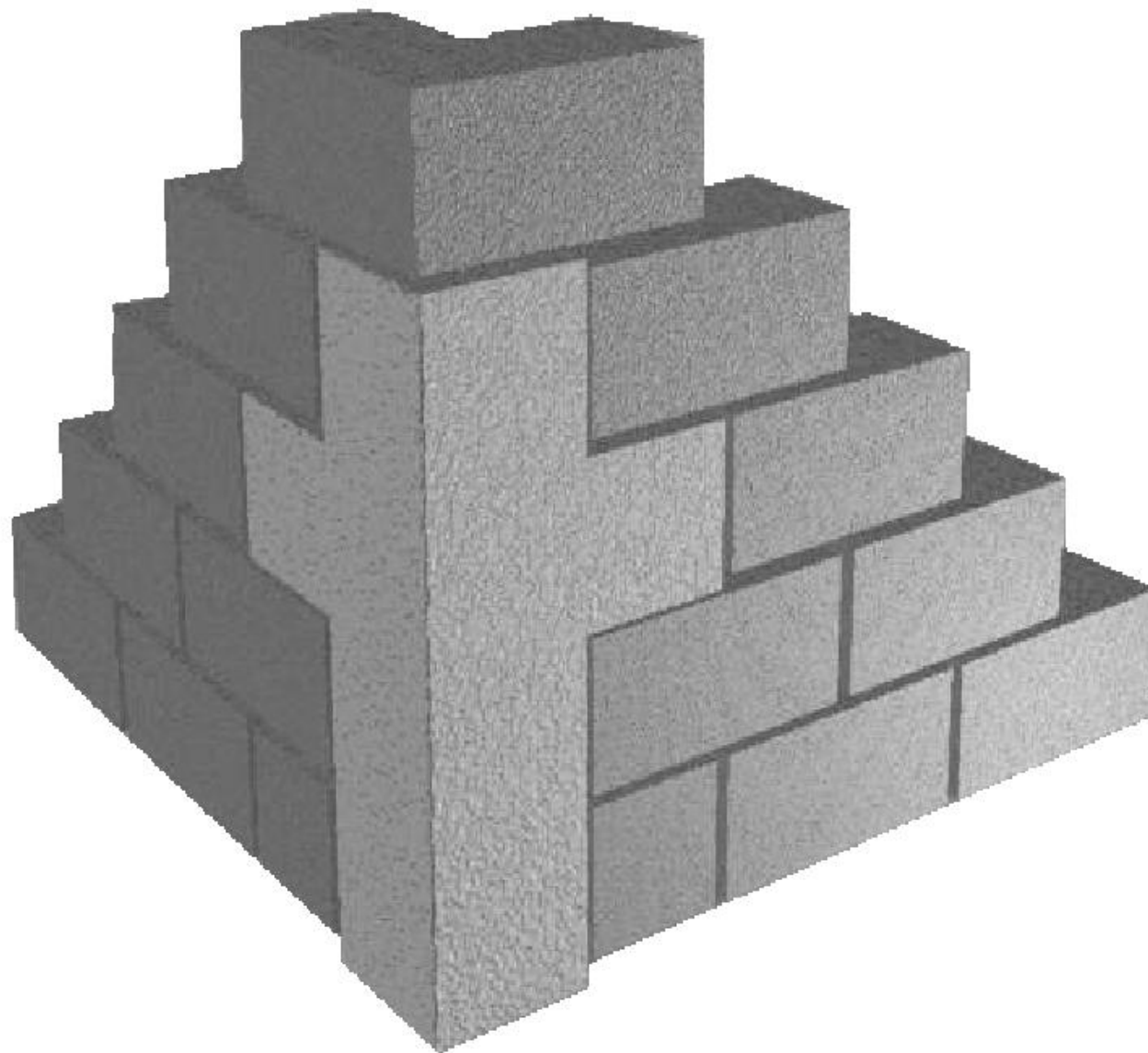
Temperance

Knowledge

Virtue

Faith

JESUS, OUR  
FIRM  
FOUNDATION  
AND CHIEF  
CORNERSTONE



- *Matthew 7:24* "Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock..."
- *Luke 6:46* "But why do you call Me "Lord, Lord," and not do the things which I say? Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like: He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock..."
- *1 Corinthians 3:10-11* "According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ."
- *Eph. 2:19-22* "Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief *cornerstone*, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

I USED TO THINK THE FOUNDATION IS LAID – THAT IS JESUS. THAT'S IT. THAT'S ALL THAT'S NEEDED. THEN THESE WORDS FROM JESUS STARTED TO SINK IN. HE IS INDEED MY FOUNDATION, BUT HOW SOLIDLY AM I FASTENING MYSELF TO HIM, MY FOUNDATION? AND AS EPH. 2:19-22 SAYS, HOW SOLIDLY ARE WE AS THE CHURCH, FITTING TOGETHER AND FASTENING OURSELVES TO JESUS, OUR FOUNDATION – GROWING INTO GOD'S HOLY TEMPLE?





Building on a Solid Foundation





A blue pushpin is pinned to the top edge of the white paper.

LET'S  
TALK

# Insights on mindsets that help us to build strongly on the foundation of Jesus – or NOT

From our Talk Time:

We get busy and we fall into the devil's subtle trap and the enemy succeeds in drawing us away from time with God, in prayer and in His word. We believe the lie that when we are working hard, we're ok.

We think we can fit into the foundation without having some rough parts chipped off. We believe the lie that we can remain unchanged and we will still be ok.

Insights on  
mindsets that  
help us to  
build strongly  
on the  
foundation of  
Jesus – or NOT

From our Ladies' Life Group:

- 1) The Lord loves me just as I am. I am worthy because of how He sees me. I do not have to clean myself up before I can be accepted to come before the Lord. I am secure in relationship with God, forgiven and loved, therefore free to live holy and pleasing to God.
- 2) Bad things or difficulties in life also happen to God's people and God will take us through every time. Nothing is wrong with me just because I am going through difficult times and trials.
- 3) God's purposes are larger than me and my life. It's NOT about me. Balancing His awesome greatness, His grand purposes for the universe, and His amazing concern for me and the details of my life.
- 4) It is God who holds on to us and it is He who will finish His work in us.
- 5) We need each other – God made us to need Him, but also to need other people. No such thing as individualistic Christianity. We were designed to be part of a family.



## 2 Peter 1:1-9

Simon Peter, a bond-servant and apostle of Jesus Christ,

To those who have received a faith of the same kind as ours, by the righteousness of our God and Saviour, Jesus Christ: <sup>2</sup> Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; <sup>3</sup> seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.<sup>4</sup> For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of *the* divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.

HIS DIVINE POWER HAS GRANTED TO US EVERYTHING PERTAINING TO LIFE AND GODLINESS THROUGH THE TRUE KNOWLEDGE OF HIM WHO CALLED US. But sadly we forget that we already have everything we need.

WHAT GOD WANTS FOR US: TO BECOME PARTAKERS OF THE DIVINE NATURE (AND THEREFORE ESCAPING BEING CORRUPTED BY THE WORLD; BEING IN ITS MOLD). God wants us to become like Him!

SALVATION IS JUST THE BEGINNING – THE FOUNDATION OF OUR FAITH IN JESUS IS THE FOUNDATION; BUT WE HAVE TO KEEP WORKING ON THE REST OF THE BULDING! *HENCE THE NEED TO “ADD TO YOUR FAITH”!*

## 2 Peter 1:1-9

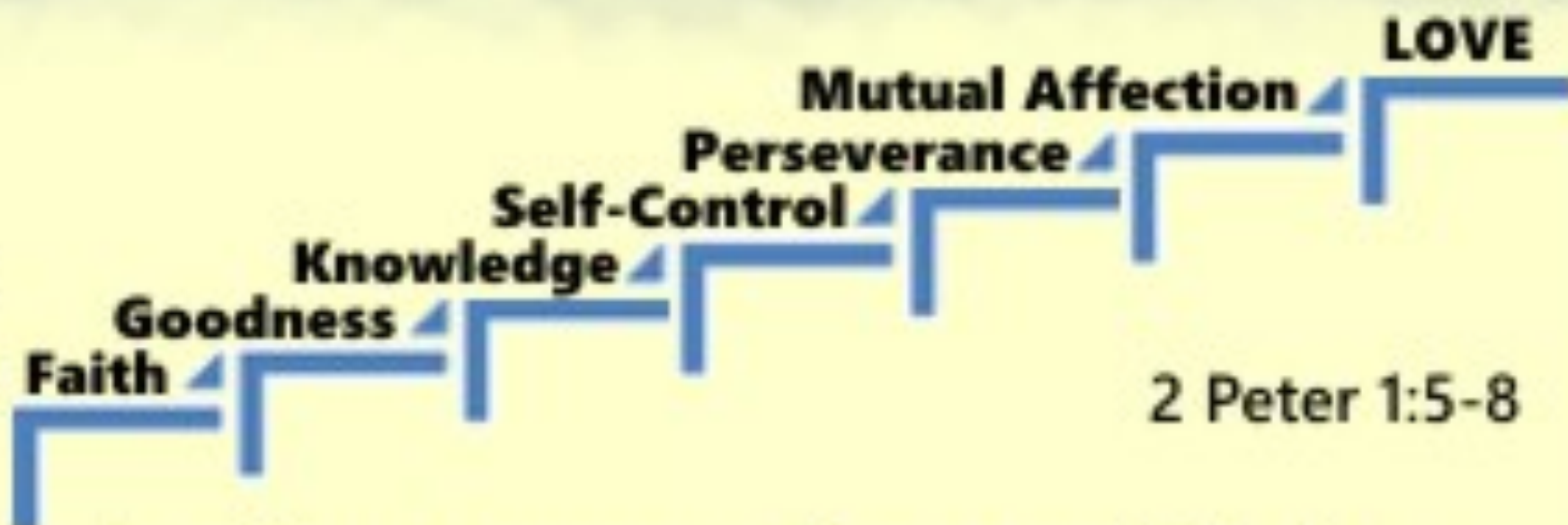
<sup>5</sup> Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in *your* moral excellence, knowledge, <sup>6</sup> and in *your* knowledge, self-control, and in *your* self-control, perseverance, and in *your* perseverance, godliness, <sup>7</sup> and in *your* godliness, brotherly kindness, and in *your* brotherly kindness, love. <sup>8</sup> For if these *qualities* are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup> For he who lacks these *qualities* is blind *or* short-sighted, having forgotten *his* purification from his former sins.

“FOR THIS VERY REASON” WHAT REASON?  
THAT GOD HAS GRANTED US EVERYTHING WE  
NEED FOR LIFE AND GODLINESS!  
THEREFORE, “APPLY ALL DILIGENCE”  
(OR MAKE EVERY EFFORT)  
THE PROGRESSION IS SIGNIFICANT.  
THE ORDER OF ONE BLOCK UPON THE OTHER IS  
INSTRUCTIVE.



**Make every effort to**

add to  
your

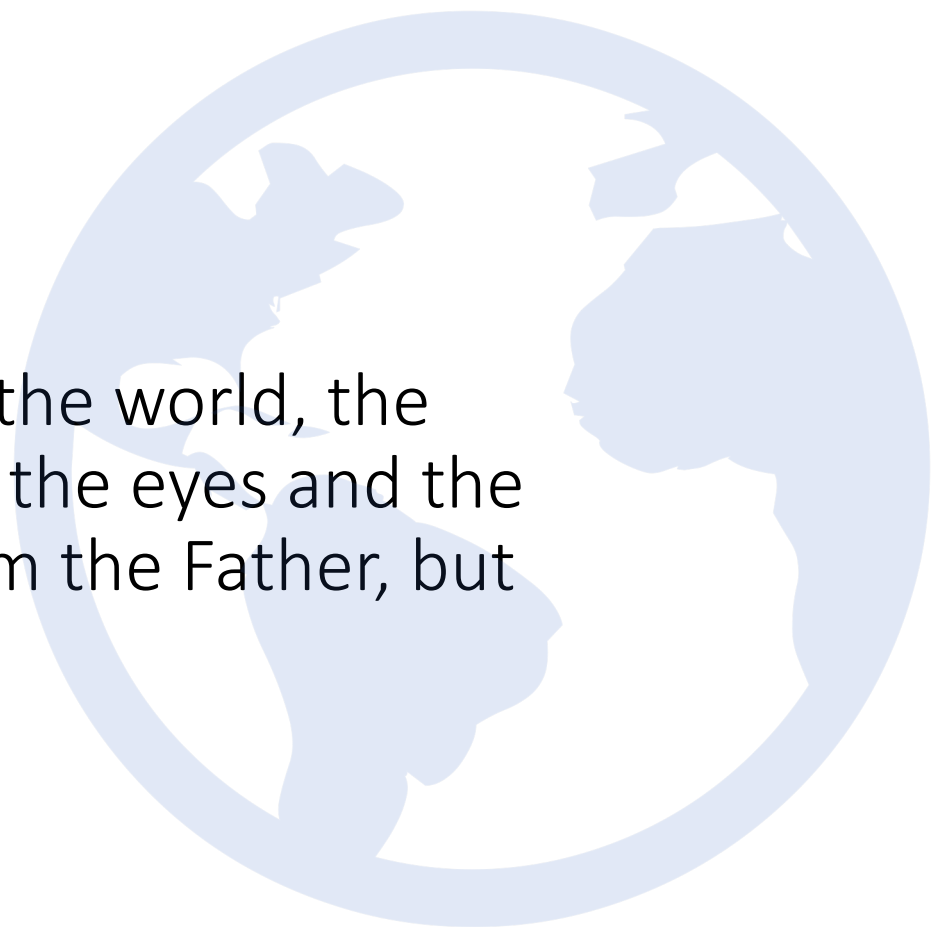


2 Peter 1:5-8

**For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.**



1 John 2: 16 <sup>16</sup> For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.



# Seven Deadly Sins



**Lust**



**Gluttony**



**Greed**



**Sloth**



**Wrath**



**Envy**



**Pride**



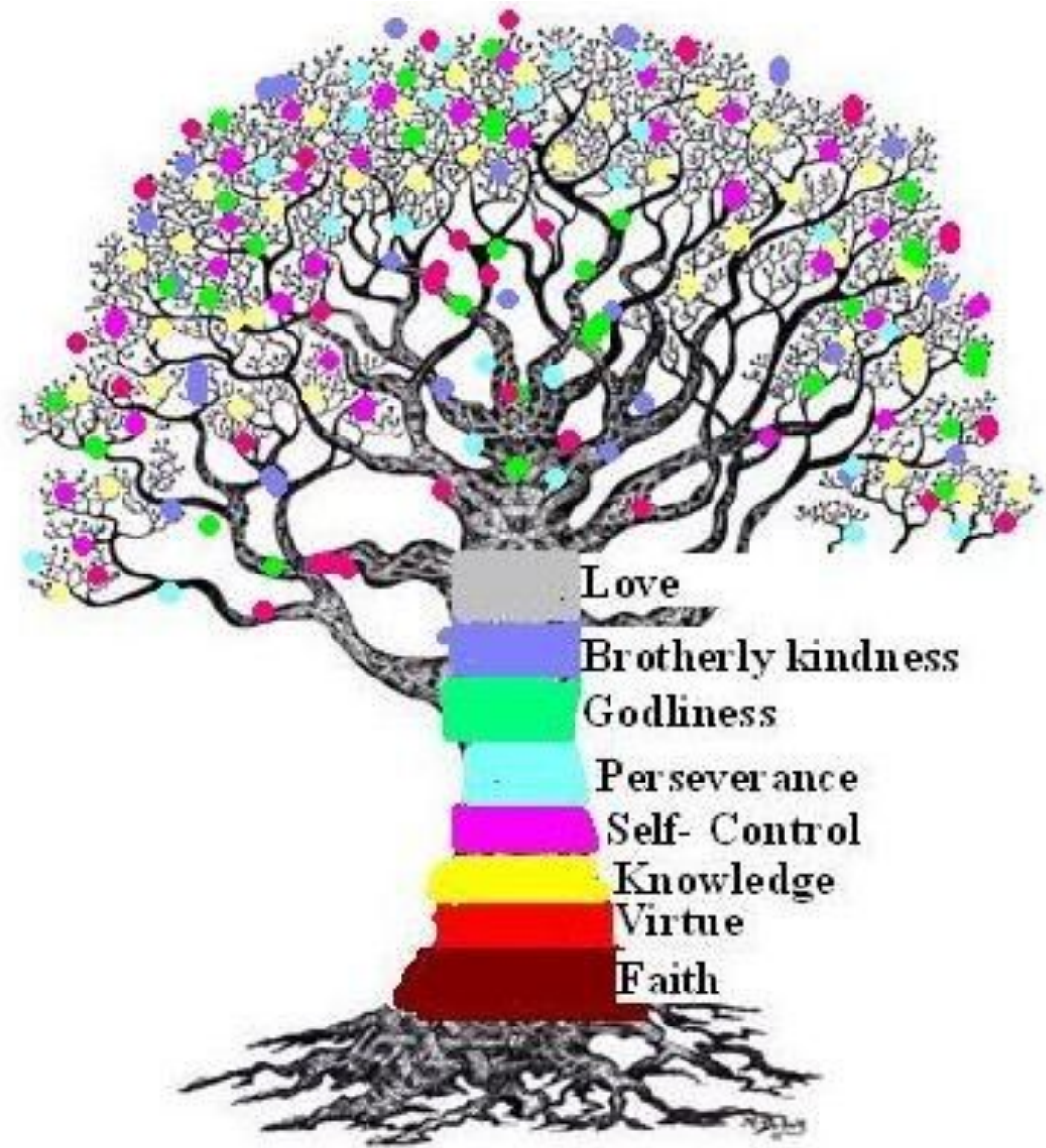


EACH IS NOT JUST A SIN IN ITSELF, BUT  
ALSO A ROOT OF SINFULNESS.

The seven virtues in 2 Peter 1 actually  
counter these seven deadly sins.

WHEN WE POSSESS  
THESE QUALITIES – IN  
INCREASING  
MEASURE, WE  
BECOME USEFUL AND  
FRUITFUL.

---





# THE BEDROCK OR THE ROOT: FAITH IN JESUS

- 2 Peter 1:1 "To those who ... have received a faith as precious as ours."  
FAITH is a GIFT that we received. It's a precious treasure.
- "ADD TO YOUR FAITH ..." Isn't faith enough? Didn't Martin Luther himself say that salvation is only by faith? "Solo Fide!"
- Martin Luther: "But some will object, 'Doesn't faith justify us and save us without works?' Yes, that's true. But where is your faith? How does it show itself? Faith must never be useless, deaf, dead, or in a state of decay. But it must be a living tree that bursts forth with fruit. That's the difference between genuine faith and false faith. Where there is true faith, it will show itself in a person's life."

# THE BEDROCK OR THE ROOT: FAITH IN JESUS

“Faith has fruit to bear. Faith alone can get us to heaven, but its purpose between now and then is to birth something in us that makes a difference on earth. There are hungry people to feed, some closer than you think. There are single mothers, bone-tired and dirt-poor, to encourage. Some go to your church. There are people in hospitals, and prisons, and care homes. They need visits. Some of them you’re related to. There are neighbours – that’s the person across the fence from you – who could use a kind word, or help in the yard, or just a friend to drink a cup of tea with.

As Peter found, the deeds faith calls us to do are usually as ordinary and unglamorous as feeding sheep.”

*Mark Buchanan, “Hidden in Plain Sight”*

## In your Faith supply Moral Excellence (Goodness)

- Moral Excellence or Goodness – means **being** good. It is a quality of soul that is rooted in who God is.
- The Greek word for goodness that Peter chose to use is “arete”, which means “essential, intrinsic goodness”.
- 2 Peter 1:4 says that we are destined to “participate in the divine nature”. That’s what being sons and daughters of God means – we are to continuously grow into showing His nature: His goodness.

## In your Faith supply Moral Excellence (Goodness)

- How do we make every effort toward goodness?
- Become a **true worshipper**. Love the Lord our God with all our hearts and souls and minds and strength. His love floods our soul and we are freed and empowered to love others. To be good to them, and seek their interests – to love them as we love ourselves.
- Live in the **Spirit**. It is the Holy Spirit who changes us, as we walk in the Spirit. He cultivates our goodness and transforms us.



## 2 Corinthians 3:17-18

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into His likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.



In your Moral  
Excellence,  
Knowledge



# In your Moral Excellence or Goodness, Knowledge

- What do we know? Not Much. In fact, the strange thing about post-graduate studies is that the more you know, the more you realize how little you know, still.
- The more useful question, therefore, is what do we need to know?
- It is instructive that 2 Peter 1 encourages us to add goodness before knowledge. Knowledge is like a blowfish – it can puff up with PRIDE.

# In your Moral Excellence or Goodness, Knowledge

- 1 Corinthians 8:1 “Knowledge puffs up.”

“Knowledge is desirable, but alone it’s dangerous. The temptation is to use it as a weapon or a trophy, not a gift. Apart from goodness, knowledge is often wielded to humiliate, intimidate, or alienate others, not for what God intended it to be: a tool to build and bless and serve others. Unless knowledge is laid atop goodness – anchored to it – we grow susceptible to snobbery and smugness.

Goodness detoxifies knowledge. It draws the venom that, consumed in even small doses, can cause alarming swelling of the head. Goodness renders knowledge beneficial rather than impressive.

Smartness is a small accomplishment if you’re deficient in goodness. A big head on a small soul is ugly as an orc.”

Mark Buchanan, “Hidden in Plain Sight”

# In your Moral Excellence or Goodness, Knowledge

- So what do we need to know?
- 2 Peter 1:2 “Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the **knowledge** of God and of Jesus our Lord.
- 2 Peter 1:3 “His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our **knowledge** of Him who called us...”
- 1 Cor. 8:1b-3 “Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. The man who thinks he knows something does not yet know as he ought to know. But the man who loves God is **known by God**.

# In your Moral Excellence or Goodness, Knowledge

- The Greek word for knowledge in 2 Peter 1:5 is “Gnosis”. The Greek word Peter used in the earlier verses is “Epignosis”, meaning “fullness of knowledge”.
- Therefore, we seek to attain Epignosis, the fullness of knowledge of our Lord, by daily adding to our goodness, **knowledge (gnosis)** of our Lord.

Four Sources of this knowledge:

- A) Scripture (become deeply familiar with God’s Word)
- B) Worship and Prayer (we internalize and process the Word of God as we interact with Him in worship & prayer)
- C) Creation (we know our humble place & also what beauty and provisions God has given us in creation)
- D) Community (where we find God in our brothers & sisters)





# In your Knowledge, Self Control

- Self Control, Temperance, or Restraint – overcoming our impulses and taming our desires.
- Self control, which is connected to being disciplined, however, also has the danger of PRIDE. Spiritual disciplines tend to make us proud, when in fact these disciplines are intended by God to teach us humility.
- The essence of self-control is humility. This is why it is important to build self-control upon knowledge - knowing how little we know, and that knowing God is most important.



# In your Knowledge, Self Control

- Self-control has to do with our minds. It is a trained capacity to think clearly about what matters most. It's a disciplined attentiveness to what God has done and is doing. And it is a heightened sensitivity to spiritual reality, including a shrewd awareness of how the devil seeks to destroy us. Self-control is really about **paying attention.** *M. Buchanan*
- I have discovered that when we are tired, or frustrated, or sad, we feel the need to RELAX or DE-STRESS. I have found that these times are when I tend not to “pay attention”. I’m relaxing! I deserve a break! And I open myself up to the devil’s schemes.

## 1 Peter 1:13-16

Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed. As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as He who called you in holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: 'Be holy, because I am holy.'"

Self control helps us to be prepared to act – to do, as we hear – as the Spirit leads us. Self control keeps us sober and alert so that we are not caught off-guard by hard times, or by our evil desires. Self control is key to becoming holy as our God is holy.

## 1 Peter 4:7

The end of all things is near. Therefore be clear minded and self-controlled so that you can pray.



SELF-CONTROL IS FOR THE PURPOSE OF  
BEING ABLE TO PRAY – ONE OF THE  
MOST IMPORTANT OCCUPATIONS OF  
THE BELIEVER. Peter must have  
regretted not having enough self-  
control to stay awake and pray with  
Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane.

## 1 Peter 5:8

Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

THERE IS AN ENEMY JUST WAITING FOR YOU TO  
STOP PAYING ATTENTION! AFTER GREAT  
SPIRITUAL EFFORTS, AFTER VICTORY, THE  
ENEMY OF OUR SOULS IS WAITING TO DEVOUR  
YOU BECAUSE HE IS RAGING MAD AT HOW YOU  
HAVE HELPED TO BUILD GOD'S KINGDOM.

You are also vulnerable when you are  
disappointed in God, or just plain dead-tired  
because you have overstretched yourself.  
How great men of God have fallen during these  
times! BUT WE CAN RELAX **WITH GOD**  
THE SAME WAY WE DO OUR GREAT EXPLOITS  
**WITH GOD!**

**Make every effort to**

add to  
your



2 Peter 1:5-8

**For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

## Colossians 1:9-10

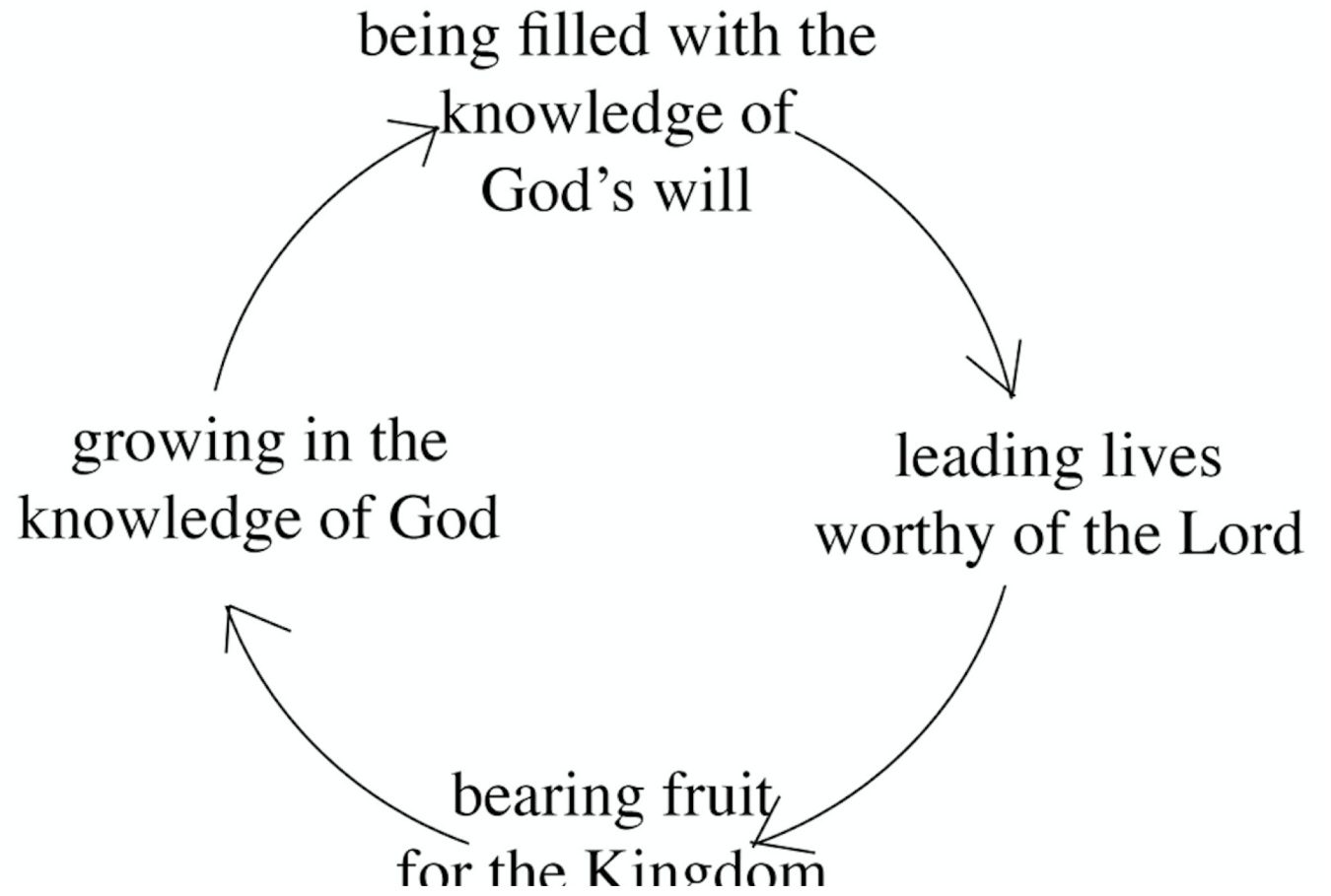
<sup>9</sup> For this reason also, since the day we heard *of it*, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,<sup>10</sup> so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please *Him* in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;



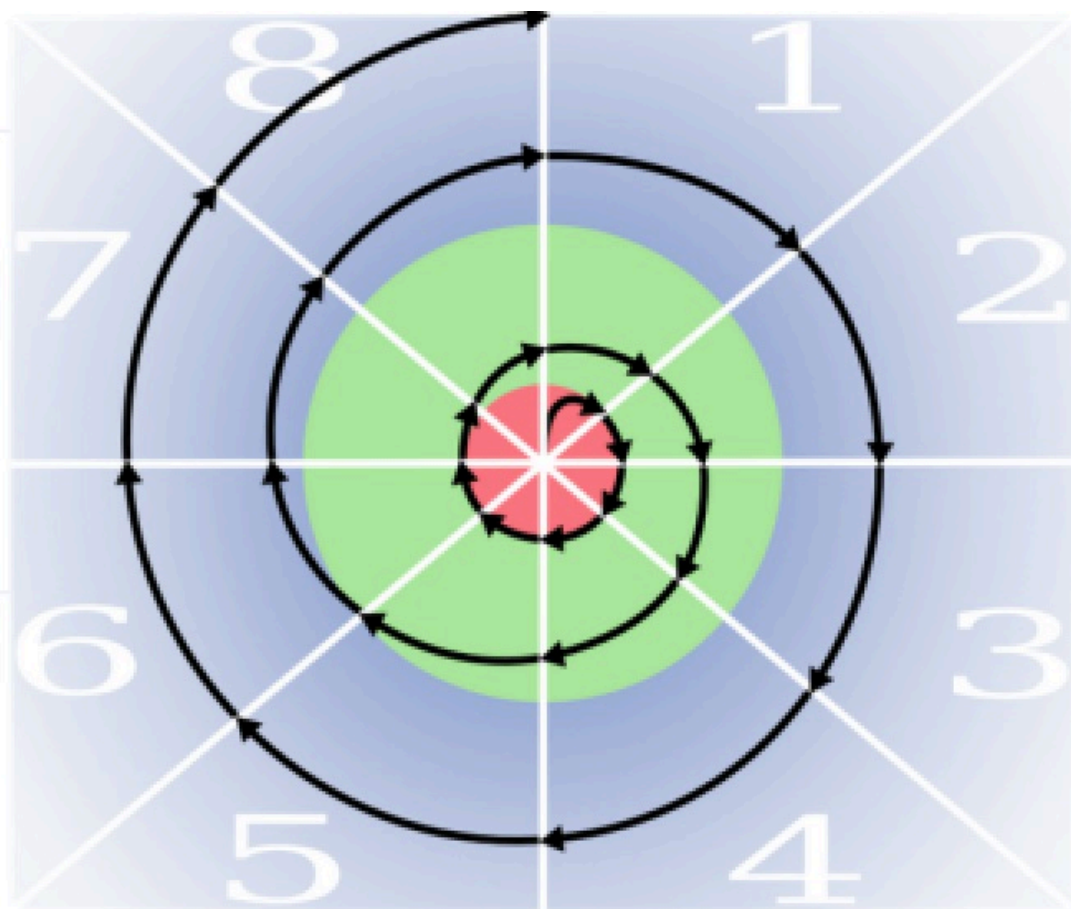
# The Colossian Cycle

---

*according to Colossians 1:9-10*



# The Colossian Cycle of Increasing Growth



*according to Colossians 1:9-10*

