

Application Suggestions, November 15, 2020

Meanwhile: Waiting for God's Promises

2 Peter 1:1-11

The Apostle Peter, in 2 Peter 1:5-7, provides a list of virtues that contribute to spiritual maturity. Prayerfully reflect on each one and ask God to help you determine “if you possess these qualities in increasing measure” (2 Peter 1:8).

- Faith
 - Your initial response to God's call to come to him and trust in him, as well as your growing confidence in him and the truth of his word.
- Goodness
 - Generally, virtuous—the good, as contrasted with the bad. More specifically, the moral excellence of God, reflected in your life.
- Knowledge
 - Your being in relationship with God and living in relationship with him—discerning his will and orienting your life in accordance with that will.
- Self-Control
 - A fruit of the Spirit that enables you to overcome the work of the flesh, particularly in regard to temptations of the flesh—evil desires.
- Perseverance
 - Endurance, your ability to remain steadfast during times of trial and testing.
- Godliness
 - To a degree, your participation in the divine nature. More so, your pleasing God in every aspect of your life.
- Mutual Affection
 - Your love directed to one another, specifically your fellow Christ-followers.
- Love
 - Your seeking the best for another to the extent of sacrificing yourself—your needs and even your life—for another's well-being.

The goal of this Scripture passage is to “make every effort to confirm your calling and election” or, as indicated in the point of Sunday's sermon, “Pursue Spiritual Maturity.” Develop a plan or a process by which you will “pursue” each of the spiritual virtues listed above in your life—day-by-day, week-by-week, month-by-month.

- Do a Biblical word study of each term.
- Make practical applications of each term by seeking to express these qualities in your interaction with other people.
- Seek a partner, a fellow-believer with whom you can share mutual encouragement and mutual accountability in your pursuit of spiritual maturity.

