

1. The call to supplement our Profession of Faith with seven qualities - why the emphasis to add these?

8 For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or

unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. 10 Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. 11 For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.



2. The third quality to add to our Faith (Virtue/Knowledge): **Self-Control.**

Self-government or Godly Self-bridling is necessary to abstain from the lusts of the world. "It abstains from the evil it knows to identify, and steadily bridles the desires and lusts of the eyes, flesh and boastful heart. Resolve: **I must regularly say to NO to the ungodly enticements and influences around me and instead say YES to the Spirit.**

3. The fourth supplement; Add to our Faith (Virtue/ Knowledge/Self-Control): **Steadfastness**

The practice of self-control leads to inner "steadfastness"; a long term endurance (in battle), temperance or perseverance. The term appears thirty-two times in the NT affirming endurance in times of struggle or spiritual battle. It is the inner "quality" needed to stand firm in one's commitment to Jesus over the long haul in the face of persecution, temptation or other hardships. This quality needs to grow and mature. Resolve: **I want to be a steadfast Christian, able to endure for the glory of God.**

4. The fifth supplement; Add to our Faith (Virtue/ Knowledge/Self-Control/Steadfastness): **Godliness**

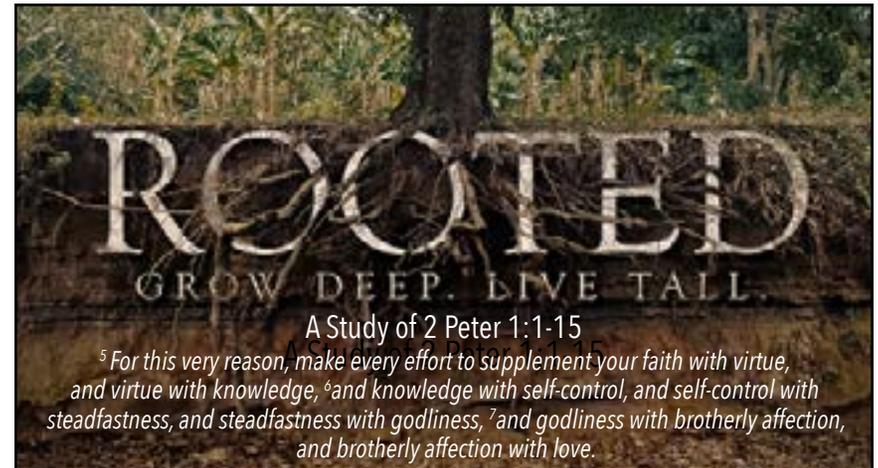
Adding godliness (piety) means we consider God in control of our whole life, and hold him in such supreme honor, that we seek His approval in our actions and reactions. When we have added to our Faith, Moral Excellence, Knowledge of God, Self-Restraint and become Steadfast, there is a result; we more and more reflect the character and nature of God.

Resolve: **I pray that I can be Godly in my heart, reflecting His nature and heart in my life.**

Commentaries and resources used in preparation of this message: [The Message of Samuel](#) by Mary J. Evans; [The David Story](#), by Robert Alter; [1 Samuel, Looking for a Leader](#), by John Woodhouse; [The First Book of Samuel](#), by David Toshio Tsumura; [David](#), by Charles R. Swindoll; and selected Sermons on 1&2 Samuel by Timothy Keller or other ministers.

mscales@canyoncreekchurch.org

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1 Samuel 24 **Saul... went to seek David and his men:** Informers tell Saul where David is staying. Saul has been convinced that David is his enemy, someone who plans to usurp the throne by leading a coup. Saul leads 3000 chosen men against David who is in the area of the oasis springs of En-gedi, in the hills east of the Dead Sea, a place of many caves. **there was a cave, and Saul went in to relieve himself:** David's men are hiding in one of the many caves in that area and Saul chooses that same cave among the many to "relieve" himself. This is a level of detail that explains why Saul was in the cave alone, and it portrays his vulnerability to David at that moment. **Here is the day:** David's men want to attack and kill the vulnerable Saul. They and David had been unjustly chased and threatened by King Saul. They see the opportunity as a god-send. But is it Providence or Temptation? **stealthily cut off a corner of Saul's robe:** David does not attack Saul to kill him but instead cuts a corner off of his robe. The robe is emblematic of Saul's station as King. Samuel had told Saul that his kingdom would be torn from him and given to another in chapter 15. David can now prove that he could have killed Saul, but chose not to and he will explain why he made that choice.

When Saul returned from following the Philistines, he was told, "Behold, David is in the wilderness of Engedi." 2 Then Saul took three thousand chosen men out of all Israel and went to seek David and his men in front of the Wildgoats' Rocks. 3 And he came to the sheepfolds by the way, where there was a cave, and Saul went in to relieve himself. Now David and his men were sitting in the innermost parts of the cave. 4 And the men of David said to him, "Here is the day of which the Lord said to you, 'Behold, I will give your enemy into your hand, and you shall do to him as it shall seem good to you.'" Then David arose and stealthily cut off a corner of Saul's robe.

⁵ And afterward David's heart struck him, because he had cut off a corner of Saul's robe. ⁶ He said to his men, "The Lord forbid that I should do this thing to my lord, the Lord's anointed, to put out my hand against him, seeing he is the Lord's anointed." ⁷ So David persuaded his men with these words and did not permit them to attack Saul. And Saul rose up and left the cave and went on his way.

⁸ Afterward David also arose and went out of the cave, and called after Saul, "My lord the king!" And when Saul looked behind him, David bowed with his face to the earth and paid homage. ⁹ And David said to Saul, "Why do you listen to the words of men who say, 'Behold, David seeks your harm'?"

¹⁰ Behold, this day your eyes have seen how the Lord gave you today into my hand in the cave. And some told me to kill you, but I spared you. I said, 'I will not put out my hand against my lord, for he is the Lord's anointed.' ¹¹ See, my father, see the corner of your robe in my hand. For by the fact that I cut off the corner of your robe and did not kill you, you may know and see that there is no wrong or treason in my hands. I have not sinned against you, though you hunt my life to take it. ¹² May the Lord judge between me and you, may the

David's heart struck him: David feels remorse - why? The narrator tells us David is convicted in his heart/spirit of sinning because of his cutting of Saul's robe. In David's mind he has crossed a line. Some might tell him to lighten up but he is convinced that he has put out his hand against Saul who is the anointed of the Lord. David knows one absolute truth to follow in this situation: Don't mess with the one God Himself appointed and anointed.

David persuaded his men with these words: David has to work hard to restrain his men. They must have visualized an end to their days of running. They may have been full of self-righteous indignation, citing the injustice of Saul's treatment of them. They were eager to encourage David that he had the right from God to do whatever was right in his own eyes, meaning, kill Saul (vs.4).

"My lord the king!": David is filled with strong feelings. He is driven to confront his accuser. He begins with homage. He respectfully bows before his anointed King.

Why do you listen: After bowing David confronts Saul with a question: Why do you believe lies and rumors? They say I am trying to harm you and take the throne, but it's a lie and now let me show you proof.

this day your eyes have seen: David has proof that he has no intention or desire to harm Saul. The proof is the piece of robe he cut off of Saul's robe. Since David had the opportunity to kill a defenseless Saul but instead did him no harm, it proves that there is no intention to harm Saul. David declares that he has not sinned against Saul. He will not "put his hand against" Saul because Saul is the Lord's anointed.

may the Lord avenge me against you: However, David does have a great grievance against Saul. David reminds the King that he has been wickedly hunting him to assassinate him. Innocent David has no recourse but to confront Saul about this injustice and then to

Lord avenge me against you, but my hand shall not be against you. ¹³ As the proverb of the ancients says, 'Out of the wicked comes wickedness.' But my hand shall not be against you. ¹⁴ After whom has the king of Israel come out? After whom do you pursue? After a dead dog! After a flea! ¹⁵ May the Lord therefore be judge and give sentence between me and you, and see to it and plead my cause and deliver me from your hand."

¹⁶ As soon as David had finished speaking these words to Saul, Saul said, "Is this your voice, my son David?" And Saul lifted up his voice and wept.

¹⁷ He said to David, "You are more righteous than I, for you have repaid me good, whereas I have repaid you evil. ¹⁸ And you have declared this day how you have dealt well with me, in that you did not kill me when the Lord put me into your hands. ¹⁹ For if a man finds his enemy, will he let him go away safe? So may the Lord reward you with good for what you have done to me this day. ²⁰ And now, behold, I know that you shall surely be king, and that the kingdom of Israel shall be established in your hand. ²¹ Swear to me therefore by the Lord that you will not cut off my offspring after me, and that you will not destroy my name out of my father's house." ²² And David swore this to Saul. Then Saul went home, but David and his men went up to the stronghold.

call upon the Lord for help.

Out of the wicked comes wickedness: David reminds Saul that wickedness comes from wicked people, not righteous people. Saul's actions have been wicked toward David and David hopes Saul will inspect his own heart as well as the people who influence him.

May the Lord...judge : David believes and declares to Saul that the Lord will be the "judge", He will give "sentence", will "see to it" and will "plead my cause" and finally "deliver me". Long before David cut Saul's robe he had determined that he would have to boldly trust in God to bring an end to the injustice and abuse he was receiving from powerful, King Saul. He put his life into God's hand and left the cave and exposed himself to confront Saul. He was "Steadfastly" trusting in God for his life and his future. He would endure until the LORD chose to change things and remove Saul.

Saul lifted up his voice and wept: Saul feels deeply grateful for his life being preserved and acknowledges the truth of David's speech. But David didn't trust him, he went back to "the stronghold". In Chapter 26 Saul is again pursuing David to kill him and again David confronts him with a similar reproof.