

Memory Verse

2 Peter 1:3

His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence,

GRACELIFE



CHURCH

Spiritual Maturity Pt 2

Principles of Maturity

2 Peter 1:3-10

2 Peter 1:3-10 - His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, 4by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of

sinful desire. 5For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, 6and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, 7and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. 8For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being

ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. 10Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall.

...Last time we discussed the **challenge to maturity**, based in *Hebrews*. There, the *Jewish Christian's* should have been leaders, but needed spiritual **milk** rather than **meat**... I asked - *Are we maturing as a Christian?*

Today, we will look at *2 Peter 1* and **principles of maturity**... they are **cumulative** to form a *picture of a mature follower of Christ*.

A. 1:3-4 - Power, Promises and Partakers

God gave them and us, *all that is needed for life and godliness...* We depend on **His power** and submit to His authority and what He says, because *He has done these things*. He has given us what we need, *in His word and His Spirit*, to know what these things are and how to live. He has *granted or given* all these things through *the rich, relational, or close knowledge of Him*.

A. 1:3-4 - Power, Promises and Partakers

He gave us the **power to live**, through the **knowledge of Him**. We *know Him* and are in a *right relationship with Him* and *live out* what He wants from us, as *Christ lives through us*... Peter says God *called us to His own glory and excellence*. This is connected with *verse 10*, which most of the time, *election*, refers to the nation of Israel...

A. 1:3-4 - Power, Promises and Partakers

He also gave them, and us *precious and very great promises* says verse 4. Peter describes God's promises as *precious, very great*.

These are not mere words to pass over, but to pay attention to and hold on to for life.

These are the *promises given to Israel* in the Old Testament...

A. 1:3-4 - Power, Promises and Partakers

It is through the *knowledge of Him*, because of *His power*, and these *precious promises* that we are **partakers** of His divine nature. We do **not** become God or part of God.

A. 1:3-4 - Power, Promises and Partakers

ESV Study Bible - 2 Peter 1:4 - “Divine nature” uses terms familiar to Peter’s Hellenistic (*Greek speaking... Jewish*) readership to help them understand the idea of transformation into the image of Christ. Peter emphasizes the moral focus of the believer’s transformed life. At conversion, Christians are delivered from the corruption of this world, which is rooted in sinful desire.

B. 1:5-7 - Principles of Maturity

...This is a *cumulative or cohesive character* referred to. Peter says that they, and we are to ***make every effort***. While we are not saved by works, salvation leads to works as *Ephesians 2:10*...

Maturity does not come automatically, but as we make a habit of *putting into practice* what we learn, *our life is transformed*.

B. 1:5-7 - Principles of Maturity

1. Faith

Faith is the **foundation** for the Christian life and Christian maturity. Faith is *trust in something or someone*. We are saved by God's grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone. Faith is emphasized in *Hebrews 11*. Faith is *not just saying you trust, but you act upon that trust*. Faith is a **verb**.

B. 1:5-7 - Principles of Maturity

1. Faith

Peter says to, *supplement your faith*, which means the 7 things listed after this are the *result of faith*, or are *based on faith*... We must start with *faith*, not our effort, not determination, not legalism, not by listing our credentials, but *acknowledging we trust the Lord as we pursue Him and implement His truth in our lives as a habit.*

B. 1:5-7 - Principles of Maturity

2. Virtue

This means "*moral goodness, uprightness, or goodness.*" It refers to **ethics** and **morality**. In the Greek there is a definite article - *the virtue*. This was a call to them and to us, to live a *virtuous, morally good or upright life...*

B. 1:5-7 - Principles of Maturity

3. Knowledge

Add to your *moral goodness*, **knowledge**. Here, knowledge is **moral wisdom expressed in right living**. This is *working knowledge* from *first hand personal experience*, or connecting theory to application. *Doctrine* is another way to translate this. They needed, and we need truth. We need to *learn doctrine* and put that into practice.

Romans 15:4 - For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

The Bible was written to *specific people in specific contexts*. It was written for us to *learn from*, because it is the ***living word*** of God!

B. 1:5-7 - Principles of Maturity

4. Self-Control

Add to your knowledge, **self-control**, **self-mastery**, or **self-restraint**. This is **mastery** or **dominion within** – proceeding out from within oneself, but *not by oneself*. That is, it comes out from us, but does **not originate within us!** It begins with God...

B. 1:5-7 - Principles of Maturity

5. Steadfastness/Endurance

This word is translated as *steadfastness*, *perseverance* or *endurance*. It is **patiently waiting for something**, or **patiently enduring something** or **remaining under a situation**... "the characteristic of a man who is unswerved from his deliberate purpose and his loyalty to faith and piety by even the greatest trials and sufferings:"

<https://biblehub.com/greek/5281.htm>

B. 1:5-7 - Principles of Maturity

6. Godliness

This word refers to *devoutness, piety, or devotion to God*. This is a whole-hearted natural expression of reverence for God. This is recognizing the **rightful place of God** in our lives, decisions, relationships and finances. This is *wanting to please God rather than man*. This is a term to describe our **overall attitudes and actions**.

B. 1:5-7 - Principles of Maturity

7. Brotherly Affection

This is *brotherly love*, or **love for our brothers and sisters in Christ**. Regardless of what they think, what they believe about secondary matters of doctrine, about politics, or personal convictions, we are to love them *as a brother or sister in the Lord*. This **assumes** both parties are Christians.

1 John 3:16-18 - By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. 17But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? 18Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

B. 1:5-7 - Principles of Maturity

8. Love

Love is the **ultimate goal** of faith in Christ. We are to understand His love for us, and in turn, be filled with that love and *live out that love by His power*. This is God's love, or *love expressed by doing what is best for another, even if it costs you something*. This is **self-sacrificial love**, or **unselfish love**... The goal of the Christian life..

C. 1:8-10 – Progressive Fruit and a Proper Warning

Peter says **IF** these *character traits are in our lives, and increasing, THEN* we will be *fruitful* in the knowledge of the Lord. This is the *progressive fruit* we are to have in our Christian life... For us, we need to understand that *we don't do these on our own, but with the power of God.*

A night sky filled with stars, with the dark silhouettes of trees visible at the bottom. The text is overlaid on this background.

Galatians 5:22-23 - But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

C. 1:8-10 – Progressive Fruit and a Proper Warning

In *verse 10*, if they, and we, **practice** these qualities, we won't fail. "*Practice*" is in the **present tense**, meaning – **keep doing these things constantly**. It also is an *example to others* that God has worked in our lives and brought us to Himself through Christ and changed us. *Holiness is not the basis of salvation, but the fruit of salvation.*

C. 1:8-10 – Progressive Fruit and a Proper Warning

He then gives a ***proper warning*** in verse 9. *Whoever lacks these qualities is blind, and has forgotten that God cleansed them from their sins.* If a true Christian neglects to acquire these qualities then, there are things you will forget.