

2 Peter 1:5-11 Grow in Godliness

2Pet. 1:5 For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your **faith with virtue**, and **virtue with knowledge**,

2Pet. 1:6 and **knowledge with self-control**, and **self-control with steadfastness**, and **steadfastness with godliness**,

2Pet. 1:7 and **godliness with brotherly affection**, and **brotherly affection with love**.

Virtue - a manifestation of power characterized by excellence (BDAG) is a virtuous course of thought, feeling and action; moral goodness or moral excellence

Knowledge - possesses information about — to know, to know about, to have knowledge of, to be acquainted with, acquaintance.

Self-control - means that you must go against your impulses or feelings in order to attain a higher goal; to exercise complete control over one's desires and actions — 'to control oneself,

Patience - capacity to continue to bear up under difficult circumstances — 'endurance, being able to endure.' to continue to bear up despite difficulty and suffering

Godliness - appropriate beliefs and devout practice of obligations relating to supernatural persons and powers.

Brotherly Affection - affection for one's fellow believer in Christ — 'love for one's fellow believer, affection for a fellow believer.

Love - Christian love, love for others, genuine love for everyone, loving concern, charity. This noun is also translated as a verbal expression: 'to love everyone, 'to love all people'. This love is not actuated by feelings or emotion but by deliberate choice.

Questions to Ponder

1. How can we know whether our diligence is a work of the flesh or of the Spirit?
2. How can we make sure that our motives for spiritual growth are right?
3. Which of the seven qualities do you most need to focus on?
4. How can we know whether our lives are truly fruitful for God's kingdom? What biblical criteria are there?