

Add To Your Faith - L3 “*The Virtuous Life*”

Introduction - We have been looking at this very important passage of Scripture found in **2 Peter 1**. In these first **fifteen verses**, Peter gives some great instruction on **growth in the Christian life**. He describes this growth using the phrase “*add to your faith...*” When we looked at the **first five verses**, we see that Peter emphasizes our “*like precious faith...*” ...And how precious it is to trust the Lord!



Text: 2 Peter 1:3–5

As Peter deals with this subject here, says we must add to our faith- **virtue**. **Notice with me that Peter says in verse 3 we have been called to glory and virtue.** That is the path that God has for us... not failure and defeat but glory and virtue.

2 Peter 1:3 “*3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:*”

The biblical term ‘virtue’ is not a widely used word in the New Testament. It is found in this epistle and also in **Philippians 4:8**. In **Philippians 4:8**, “*8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.*”

The idea is not—we are adding to one area of our lives and leaving the other behind. But the idea is that we must build and abound in each of these great areas of the Christian life, being rooted in Christ. When we look at this list, our desire is to grow in *all of these areas*. And the fact is that these areas overlap and support each other just like bricks on a wall. And so, virtue—the first addition listed here has to do with **courageously doing right all the time**. Virtue gives the basic idea of ‘excellence,’ specifically ‘moral excellence.’ And we are not speaking of the idea of societal morality— but rather God’s definition of moral excellence.

I. The _____ Of Virtue

The truth is not every Christian will take the opportunity and challenge to live adding to their faith virtue. How do we know how to live? By following **after the Word of God**. There are many positive examples given to us in the Scriptures concerning this matter of virtue. Who are some of those positive examples we find in the Word of God?

But notice in our text, we are called to glory and virtue.

A. We Are _____ To Virtue

2 Peter 1:3 “3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath **called** us to glory and **virtue:**”

This is the responsibility that the Lord has given to us— He has called us to this kind of life. In the end, every child of God is to be conformed to the image of His dear Son.

Romans 8:29 “29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did **predestinate** to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.”

“We should not wait until we get to heaven to become like Jesus Christ! In our character and conduct, we should reveal His beauty and grace today.” (Wiersbe)

But know secondly,

B. We Are _____ To Virtuous Living

In **verse 5**, as with the rest of the areas of growth that are listed here, Peter declares the directive statement “add to your faith...” As we look at this text this evening, we note that this is not an optional area of the Christian life.

II. The _____ Of Virtue

If we live this way, it will have several results in our lives. The life of courageously doing right will be known by others. First, living the virtuous life:

A. Will Bring _____

We live in a time when things are changing quickly. It seems that things are becoming increasingly polarized here in this country. Paul, in his final letter to Timothy, described his experience of living his life following Christ. He testified in **2 Timothy 3:10–13** “10 But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience, 11 Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me. 12 Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. 13 But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.”

B. Will Bring _____ Influence

As I mentioned at the beginning, Ruth is named by Boaz as a woman who courageously did right. He called her virtuous. But notice what Boaz claimed about Ruth. He states in **Ruth 3:11** “11 And now, my daughter, fear not; I will do to thee all that thou requirest: for all the city of my people doth know that thou art a virtuous woman.” When we live according to God’s ways, we will have a positive influence on others.

III. The _____ Of Virtue

If you want to live the most abundant, fruitful life, then follow after what God declares is right. This does not mean it is the easy life... but it is the most rewarding life. There are

two ways in which we will be rewarded for living the life of virtue, besides us personally just living the best life we could live.

A. By _____

Each of us has an appointment with God. One day, according to **2 Corinthians 5:10**, *“10 For we must **all** appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.”*

Charles Spurgeon rightly said it this way, “There are no crown-wearers who were not cross-bearers on earth.”

B. By _____

Proverbs 12:4 *“4 A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband: But she that maketh ashamed is as rottenness in his bones.”*

One Bible teacher said this, *“As a crown brings honor, splendor, and dignity to its wearer, so virtue brings these things to the Christian.”*

I think about the testimony of the men and ladies in this local church, who I have been told over and over again have lived virtuous lives! The application for us is this: Am I going to commit to being a Christian who will diligence add to my faith in this matter of virtue?