1Thess #122

Patience is a virtue.

The Bible Conference on Nov 11th & 12th will be working with the following hotel for accommodations.

/Towne place suites (Marriott)

8125 SW Highway 200, Ocala, FL 34481

352-619-1234

Please wait until August 28th to make reservations. Discounts for PRB Ministry will be in place up until October 10th. \

Let us open back up in 1Thessalonians chapter five.

1Thes 5:14 We urge you, brothers *and sisters,* admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone.

/[1Th 5:15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1th/5/15/s_1116015) **See that no one repays another with evil for evil**, but always seek what is good for one another and for all people.\

Today we are going to see how the tail end of 1Thes 5:14, points us directly into the skill set for verse 15, which is a challenge for all Bels!

[1Th 5:16](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1th/5/16/s_1116016) Rejoice always,

[1Th 5:17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1th/5/17/s_1116017) pray without ceasing,

[1Th 5:18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1th/5/18/s_1116018) in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.

This section of the letter to Thessalonica is going to be highlighting prayer, faith rest as well as true, virtuous love which leads to the skill of real patience.

Please turn in your Bibles to 2Peter chapter one RF.

/The meaning of virtue is found in the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!(Gal 5:22-23). All of these fruits come from a singular tree of the soul structure. If any portion of the tree is weak, rotten or undernourished, it can lead to damage in other branches. \

The word [*virtue*](https://biblehub.com/greek/703.htm) in the Greek means to be of moral excellence or goodness. That is a simple definition yet it runs deeper.

Being virtuous is producing goodness from the Fruits of the Spirit not the flesh. Being patient is also a part of the Fruits of the Spirit itself.

True Godly virtue is plural – it is several virtues.

/Basic virtues developed in the divine plan of God include enforced and genuine humility, love, worship, morality, courage, and confidence. Humility is the foundation for all virtue. In the ancient world it was a term used for men of honor and it was expected all men grew into men of virtue. It had nothing to do with big muscles, big bank accounts and popularity or any form of attractiveness as modern-day men strive for. \

All of those are cosmic qualities that slice away at true, virtuous masculinity.

This like many other aspects of a Bel gaining maturity becomes a form of a learned skill set.

A skill that eventually leads to a lifestyle and a new set of expectations and standards deep within the soul, GODLY norms and standards.

The term virtue was usually described with several words and two that were often used in the original Greek context of the NT scriptures;

*/Aretē –* moral excellence of body and spirit. A gratefulness or modesty that excels in performance of life and spirituality. The absence of arrogance and presence of righteous and justice within a person.

*Dynamis –* a power rising up from purity or a virtuous action with powerful consequences. A display of strength and honor that is pure. Also, a military term for a powerful army. \

ARE-ATAY, it speaks to moral excellence and a form of praise or a spirit of praise and gratefulness that brings modesty. This covers a thought and emotion as well as an action. It was taken from a root word meaning masculinity.

DOO-NA-MIS, where we get the English word dynamite! This meant a powerful presence in the sense of righteousness or forceful action with great consequences.

Real divine virtue produces – *Dynamis.*

There was a time in the ancient world that men would strive to be righteous and pure and to stand in justice no matter what the odds were against them.

Though it was usually from the flesh if they were Unbels. There still were great results in society when both men and women understood and respected the quality of real virtue.

REPEAT

For the ladies, virtue meant to avoid loose living and save themselves for marriage.

To have an attitude of gentleness and nurturing toward others. To enjoy and live in her femininity.

Today we have flipped the script completely with men and women and we have tossed virtue out the window.

This letter from the Apostle Peter was probably written about a year before he was executed. It held a great many doctrines and warnings for the early church.

This was a few years before the destruction of Jerusalem and the social and political landscape was extremely hot for Christians.

The emperor Nero, was on a warpath against Christianity.

His reign was one of a crumbling and angry political and social structure. Many historians point to the reign of Nero as the true beginning of the end of the Rome empire, which collapsed by the 4th century.

The comparison I have is America today, certainly in the past 25 years and most recently the last 3 years.

2Pet 1:1 Simon Peter, a bond-servant and apostle of Jesus Christ,  
To those who have received a faith of the same kind as ours, by the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ:

/[2Pe 1:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2pe/1/2/s_1157002) Grace and peace be multiplied **to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord**,

You will note how many times knowledge is brought to light in the teaching of the Apostles. Knowledge always pointed to the mind of Christ (BD).\

They never had an emphasis on rituals and emotional nonsense, it always pointed the new, Church age Bels to the WORD.

/[2Pe 1:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2pe/1/3/s_1157003) **for His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness,** through **the true knowledge of Him** who called us by His own glory and excellence.

Divine power – *theios dynamis,* pointing us to the two power options. The Trinity is working within you to give you a power of true righteousness and moral excellence. \

THIGH-US, is what we often called Theandric action – GOD working in fallen man. At salvation you were given a new nature – a Christ-like nature and we are all given access to the mind of Christ.

DO-NO-MOS, this is a divine power and within that power we can develop true Godly virtues.

*/Theandric Action is the fullness of God’s divine nature overflowing in a human vessel which has surrendered to the plan of God. Theandric Action is related to changing all of us by the nature of God within us. Theandric Action means that the divine nature is alive in man. What the Hypostatic Union was to our Lord, Theandric action is to all of us.*

*Pastor Robert McLaughlin \*

Notice everything has been granted to us for this life and godliness in this life.

Granted because of the two power options at work…through the true knowledge of TLJC.

Not granted through the counterfeits or emotional waves…only through the true knowledge!

[2Pe 1:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2pe/1/4/s_1157004) Through these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of *the* divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world on account of lust.

The Apostle Peter is addressing Bels – and yet he uses the same terminology as the Apostle Paul, *SO THAT YOU MAY become partakers*.

Free will is probably more important after salvation then before.

Because God the HS is always working to bring the gospel to a lost and dying world – it’s called common grace.

Effecaious grace - is when we have a brief moment in our free will when we look to TLJC to save us. God the HS performs spiritual CPR on our dead soul.

After salvation we must make concerted efforts in our free will to grow up spiritually. REPEAT

Mankind’s free will is an intricate part of the plan of God.

/2Pet 1:5 Now for this very reason also, applying all **diligence**, **in your faith**supply **moral excellence**, and in *your* **moral excellence**, **knowledge**,

Moral excellence is Godly virtue. Godly virtue is obtained from a deeper walk in your faith, all dependent upon the accuracy of the WORD digested and applied into your life.\

It is the same Greek word – ARE-ATAY, and keeping in mind impersonal, unconditional, Godly love - is virtue love.

Which again I remind you takes a point of maturity where it begins to become part of your lifestyle.

/[2Pe 1:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2pe/1/6/s_1157006) and **in *your* knowledge, self-control** (*egkrateia*), and in *your* self-control, **perseverance**, and in *your* perseverance, **godliness**,

A mental harness over your emotional reaction, it speaks to a quality obtained from virtuous applications. \

ECK-CART-RAYAH, this speaks to controlling and really mastering your temperament under all circumstances.

This includes lust patterns within the OSN.

You become the master over your temperament and over lust patterns.

This is why I tell you many spiritual applications and results are a learned process or a learned skill set.

They do not come overnight; they do not happen naturally just because you are born again and saved.

This is why you often see scriptures like the Apostle Peter was using here in relation to building blocks – one leads to another and another.

REPEAT

[2Pe 1:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2pe/1/7/s_1157007) and in *your* godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love.

Godliness – *eusebeia,* simply means a Bel who is reaching upward into higher levels of SM. We begin to live a godly life as we gain maturity.

It is not about sinless perfection!

[2Pe 1:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2pe/1/8/s_1157008) For if these *qualities* are yours and are increasing, they do not make you useless nor unproductive in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

IF is really not in the original context, it simple states - *these same type of qualities,* all these building blocks can be increasing in the life of a serious Bel.

/[2Pe 1:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2pe/1/9/s_1157009) For **the one who lacks these *qualities* is blind** *or* short-sighted, having **forgotten** *his* purification from his former sins.

There is actually a soul illness that seeps into a Bel who refuses to grow up. A darkness that can turn into hardness.\

[2Pe 1:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2pe/1/10/s_1157010) Therefore, brothers *and sisters,* be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choice of you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble;

/2Pet 1:10 - notice the term – *practice,* this speaks to a lifestyle of making good decisions in the direction of true knowledge (BD). Virtue has several qualities that work in conjunction with it as it manifests itself in your life. Patience, self-control, humility, kindness, basically, it is the Fruit of the Spirit.\

[2Pe 1:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2pe/1/11/s_1157011) for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you.

This is not a call for a works program to enter heaven.

The Apostle Peter is at the end of his life and he is entering dying grace. He was under persecution and his health was starting to deteriorate.

The abundance of heaven he is teaching upon points to the ability to be at a higher level of maturity, facing dying grace in the end. Then enter heaven with all blessings, crowns and rewards, that is the true abundance.

There is one entrance into heaven it is through faith alone, in Christ alone.

The abundance points to rewards.

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

Godly virtues come forth from a serious journey toward maturity. These qualities will begin to manifest at differing points in your spiritual walk. \

This is not from the flesh; this is not from a journey into cosmic viewpoint.

In fact, what most people have today is called virtue signaling.

/Virtue signaling is an attempt to follow a social standard or speak in terms of accepted language, that is deemed proper from a majority in a community or culture. It is to give others and self a feeling of acceptance and goodness, which is nothing more than legalism and self- righteous arrogance. \

There has always been a lot of virtue signaling within the religious crowd.

/Luk 18:11 “**The Pharisee stood** and *began* **praying** this **in regard to himself**: ‘**God, I thank You that I am not like other people**: swindlers, crooked, adulterers, or even like this tax collector.

This is often the level of virtue seen within the cosmic system.\

Legalism and virtue signaling have the same foundation. Its an arrogance of proving to others how HOLY THOU ART, how good and compliant you are, for whatever the popular movement of the day is.

People who go along to get along, become very skilled in this arena.