
REFLECTIONS AND REVELATIONS NEWSLETTER

The Power of Progression Revisited – Good or Evil

2 Peter 1:5-9 (NKJV): ⁵“But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, ⁶to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, ⁷to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. ⁸For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.

Today was one of those days, while spending some quiet time with the Lord, He took me to school! It all started, because recently, He’s been speaking to my heart about cultivating self-control in a specific area of my life. Since I believe everything begins with a seed, I returned to the Newsletter, “The Power of Progression,”¹ which is reflective study on 2 Peter 1:5-9. This newsletter taught me the seeds I need to cultivate in my life that lead up to self-control. I’m not talking about the fruit of self-control that Holy Spirit gives, but the self-control we all gain when we put forth the effort. And, since I’ve been swinging at this “one thing” in my life, at least, since 2011, I figured it was time to look for God’s wisdom on how to get where I’m trying to go, which led me back to our opening verses.

However, for this writing, my focus is on verses 5-7. For those who haven’t read “The Power of Progression,” I’ve attached the T-Time² from the original newsletter, so you can see our introductory verses a bit more clearly. However, if you have any questions about the attached, I recommend you read the original newsletter for greater clarity. In the meantime, the long and short of it is, if our faith is to mature and eventually become love, there’s a progression of things we need to build upon to get there. My current journey is to cultivate lasting self-control, and according to our verse, in order to get there, I have to be diligent in adding virtue to my faith, knowledge to my virtue, and then I can add self-control to my knowledge.

Pondering this flow led me to look up the original meaning of faith, virtue, knowledge and self-control. Those definitions led me to ask myself the following questions:

¹ This document can be found on the website, www.wow2women.com, under *Newsletters, Reflections*, and then select “The Power of Progression,” dated 10/01/2010.

² T-Time is where I take the Word of God and break it down. Sometimes, the result clearly outlines the choices we are presented. Other times, like in this T, we see the progressive nature of God’s Word.

- **Faith.** *What do I need to have a conviction that it is true?*
- **Virtue** (also translated “goodness” in some translations). *What thoughts, feelings, and actions do I need to cultivate?*
- **Knowledge.** *What do I need to know?*
- **Self-control.** *How do I master my desires and my passions for this “one thing.”*

To answer these questions, I spent some time reflecting on things the Lord had taught me. Captured verses that came to mind. I gathered all my information and I wrote a daily prayer to help me renew my mind in this area of my life. As I sat praying and reflecting on my daily prayer this morning, I decided to write these questions in my journal alongside my prayer, so I could truly connect to each of these words. When I came to “knowledge” I wrote, “the things I need to know to turn from evil to good.” Honestly, I had to pause there, because it was like a light bulb went off in my head. There’s evil and there’s good, which took me back to the Garden of Eden, the fall of man, and what the serpent said to Woman:

Genesis 3:4-5: ³Then the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. ⁵For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.

If you know anything about me, you know what happened next! I decided to do a deep dive into the meaning of the original Hebrew word translated “evil.”³ The definition was huge, but there were a few words that really stood out, so here’s what I wrote in my journal:

This is the “knowledge” the serpent wanted Woman to embrace. That actually makes my stomach turn. The things we think, say, and do that hurt, malign, and cause stress to others, Abba, Elohim, considers “evil.” O Father, forgive me!

There is good and there is evil. Period. If it’s not God, it’s not good.

³ Strong’s Bible App, Thayer’s H7451.

The thing that really made my stomach turn is how often and how easily we, I, engage in “evil” without even realizing it! All the times I’ve used my words to hurt others. All the times I’ve maligned someone’s character because they weren’t acting like I wanted them to act. All the times I’ve created distress in someone’s life trying to get my own way. For that matter, all the times I’ve created stress in my own life trying to get my way! Even as I type this, my heart hurts, and I feel this deep regret in the pit of my stomach.

So, today, while I was connecting on how to gain self-control when it comes to that “one thing,” God was teaching me a more meaningful definition of evil. I pray it will stick with me forever and always!

Now, as I close this newsletter, I want to share, my “one thing” in this season of my life is food. For more years than I care to admit, food has been a little “g” god in my life, and it’s time for me to take it off the throne of my heart and put Abba in its place. And, the way for me to go forward in achieving that is to diligently add virtue to my faith, knowledge to my virtue, and self-control to my knowledge. As I walk this out, I pray for the grace to overcome temptation when it comes, for it will surely come! I pray the seeds of this Word will fall on good ground in the soil of my heart. I also pray that every soul who reads this will gain a new outlook on what evil really looks like. While “bad” is the main definition, it’s also hurtful, maligns others, and creates distress for ourselves and others!

Father, may the words I have captured in this newsletter and the meditations of my heart be pleasing and acceptable to You, O Lord. I pray Your Holy Spirit will bring conviction where conviction is needed that we will turn from evil and to good, so we can be vessels of honor for Your grace to freely flow to us and through us to bring glory, honor, and praise to Your name for the advancement of Your kingdom and the edification of Your body. This I pray in Your Son’s name. Amen!

If you have questions, comments, or concerns about information contained in this document, or would like to be added to or removed from the email distribution for the meeting notes, please email us at wow2@wow2women.com or complete a Contact Form on our site www.wow2women.com.

ATTACHMENT
FRUITFUL GROWTH IN THE FAITH⁴
(2 Peter 1:5-9)

The Seed	The Fruit
Faith	Virtue
Virtue	Knowledge
Knowledge	Self-Control
Self-Control	Perseverance
Perseverance	Godliness
Godliness	Brotherly Kindness
Brotherly Kindness	Love

How – through diligence

Y – “For if these things are [mine] and abound, [I] *will be* neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Life)

Y – “For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed. (Death)

⁴ The document containing a complete explanation of this T can be found on the website, www.wow2women.com, under *Newsletters, Reflections*, and then select “The Power of Progression,” dated 10/01/2010.