

The Things That Will Keep Us From Falling

II Pet. 1:8-12

I. Faith

- Trust, confidence in God, the word of God; a faithful life is based on a foundation of faith. (II Pet. 1:1; Heb. 11:1,6; Rom. 10:17)
- Faith in...God (Ps. 14:1; Rom. 1:20); His word (II Pet. 1:3-4); Jesus Christ the Son of God (Jn. 8:24; Rom. 1:3-4)
- The importance of faith: I Pet. 1:5,7-8,9,21)
- Faith like that of Abraham (Heb. 11:17-19); David (I Sam. 17:37); Paul (II Tim. 1:12)

II. Virtue

- We have been called to glory and virtue. (II Pet. 1:3; I Pet. 2:9; 3:2)
- Virtue is moral goodness, excellence of character. Virtue is the inner strength to turn away from temptation. Without virtue, a Christian becomes like the world, conforms to its pressures and fashions. Nobility of character; moral courage.
- The world had rather deny or minimize sin than exercise virtue. (legalize, rationalize, euphemize, etc.)
- Great examples of virtue: Vashti (Esther 1:11-12); Daniel (Dan. 1:8); Uriah (II Sam. 11:11; I Chron. 11:41)
- Keys to virtue: loath sin, love God's law, look for the way of escape.

III. Knowledge

- Knowledge: II Pet. 1:2; 2:20; 3:2, 16-17;
- "to become thoroughly acquainted with, to know thoroughly, to know accurately, know well" (Thayer)
- God's children are to grow in knowledge. (Dt. 6:6-9; II Pet. 3:18; I Pet. 2:2; II Tim. 2:15; I Tim. 4:13; I Pet. 3:15)
- Knowledge provides answers to life's questions, relationships, situations; and provides protection vs. sin.
- Those without knowledge are destroyed. (Hosea 4:6)

IV. Temperance

- Self-control: the character trait that masters one's desires and passions. The control one has over their thoughts and actions. The recognition and following the boundaries set by God. (I Pet. 2:11; 4:2-3; 5:8; II Pet. 2:19)
- Temperance exercises control over...
 - Our thoughts (Prov. 4:23; 16:32; Phil. 4:8)
 - Our words (Js. 3:2; Col. 4:6)
 - Our actions (I Cor. 9:26-27)
- Joseph exercised self-control. (Gen. 39:7-12); Stephen exercised self-control. (Acts 7:60)

V. Patience

- "Patience is the quality that bears up under trials, does not surrender to circumstances, or succumb under trial; and is associated with hope." (I Pet. 2:19-20; 2:21-23; 4:13)
- The need and fruit of patience.
 - For ye have need of patience that after ye have done the will of God ye might receive the promise. (Heb. 10:36)
 - Js. 1:2-4 → the trying of your faith worketh patience
 - Rom. 5:3-4 → tribulation worketh patience...hope
 - Rom. 8:24 → we are saved by hope
- "In all this did not Job sin with his lips." (Job. 2:10; Js. 5:11)

VI. Godliness

- Described: "that piety which, characterized by a God-ward attitude, does that which is well-pleasing to Him"
- Reverence, respect for God – manifested by obedience to his word.
 - II Pet. 1:3 → all things that pertain to life and godliness

- I Pet. 1:14-17 → obedience, fear, holiness
- Titus 2:11-12 → we should live soberly, righteously godly
- ITim. 6:6 → godliness with contentment is great gain.
- ITim. 4:8 → godliness is profitable unto all things
- II Cor. 5:9 → we labor that we may be accepted of him.

VII. *Brotherly Kindness*

- Treating Christians as family.
 - Same new birth.
 - Same Father.
 - Same spiritual family.
 - Same journey, eternal goal.
 - Heirs of the same inheritance.
- I Pet. 1:22; 3:8-10
- Hindrances to brotherly kindness: jealousy, envy, indifference, bitterness, lack of a forgiving spirit. (I Cor. 3:3; Eph. 4:31-32)
- Joseph (Gen. 45:4-7)

VIII. *Love*

- 8** And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins. (I Pet. 4:8)
- 4** Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, **5** Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; **6** Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; **7** Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. **8** Charity never faileth... **13** And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity. (I Cor. 13:4-8; 13)