

## **Add To Your Faith\_Moral Excellence**

2 Pet. 1:5-8

### ***Introduction:***

- A. When one becomes a child of God, he is born again spiritually (Jn 3:1-5) becoming a spiritual babe who is to grow (1 Pet. 2:1-2; 2 Pet. 3:18). One grows spiritually by feeding upon the word of God (Acts 20:32), developing a spiritual appetite in order to hunger and thirst after righteousness (Matt. 5:6).
- B. 2 Pet 1:5-11 tells of the necessity and nature of such growth. “<sup>5</sup>Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge, <sup>6</sup>and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness, <sup>7</sup>and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love. <sup>8</sup>For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.”
- C. “Moral Excellence” is the determination to do right. “Knowledge” is knowledge of God's word because it is the only source which tells what is right. “Self-control” is the application of that knowledge in your life using it to govern your thoughts and actions. “Perseverance” is remaining steadfast to the Lord and His cause. “Godliness” is being like God, as He would have you to be. “Brotherly kindness” is tender affection toward brethren in Christ. “Love” is devotion to God, Christ, and your fellowman which is expressed in obedience to God and service to man.
- D. If you are to be fruitful in your service to Christ, these things must abound in your life. If you lack them, you are blind as to what your life in Christ should be.

### ***I. God Has Always Wanted His People To Live A Good Moral Life Towards Him.***

- A. From the beginning, God commanded His people to live a good, moral life - Exo. 20:13-17; Lev. 19:1-37; many others
- B. Notice the example that Jesus gives us - Mk. 10:17-23
  - 1. Jesus told the rich, young ruler to live a moral life and to follow God
  - 2. We are all to live a moral life - Matt. 7:12; 22:39
- C. God tells us that we are special in His eyes, and we should live that way - 1 Pet. 2:9; 1:16
- D. We need to live good moral lives despite the evil that is around us - 1 Jn 2:15-17; Rom. 12:1-2
- E. God punished His people when they did not live moral lives - 2 Chr. 28:19

### ***II. Notice The Origin Of The Greek Word***

- A. The original Greek word (arête) comes from a military word
  - 1. The military is used for one major purpose, to fight
  - 2. The use of this word gives us the indication that we are in a fight
- B. Peter is using this word to signify that we are in a battle against evil - Eph. 6:10-17
  - 1. The battle that we are in is one of good against evil
  - 2. We constantly fight Satan
- C. Paul tells us in other places that we need to be prepared to fight - 1 Tim 6:12; 2 Tim 4:7
- D. It takes great courage to have this kind of virtue and fight the good fight
  - 1. Notice some example that we have preserved for us
    - a. Abraham - Heb. 11:8
    - b. Moses - Heb. 11:24-27
    - c. Daniel - Dan. 6:10

- d. Joshua - Deut. 31:6-7; Josh. 1:6
  - e. Others - Heb. 11:32-38
  - f. Especially Christ and His sufferings before His death
- E. We, today, must have courage to live like we are supposed to for God
- 1. We must have courage to confess our faith
  - 2. We must have courage to live our faith
  - 3. It takes courage to resist temptation
  - 4. It takes courage to say “no” when the world says “yes”
  - 5. It takes courage to say “yes” when the world says “no”
  - 6. It takes courage to ask for forgiveness from others and confess sins
  - 7. It takes courage to forgive others

***Conclusion:***

- A Today, we must not only live a good moral life, but we must also have the courage to fight against Satan and the evil around us. Are you fighting the fight with courage? Are you living faithfully to Christ every day? Do you have the courage to stand up against Satan?