

# Pursuing Godly Living

## Summary and Goal

The apostle Peter wrote his first epistle about the joy available to Christ followers even in the context of trials and persecution. He sent his second epistle to give believers instructions on how to live out their Christian identity. Here Peter described how God works powerfully in His people, so much so that He chooses not only to save but also equip Christians to live godly lives that glorify Him. We will see how being a Christian requires that we not only “talk the talk” but also “walk the walk” of our faith. As we talk and walk, we confirm God’s grace at work within us and His calling on our lives manifested through us.

## Session Outline

1. God’s people pursue godly living through what Jesus has done (2 Pet. 1:3-4).
2. God’s people pursue godly living with effort (2 Pet. 1:5-7).
3. God’s people pursue godly living to confirm their calling (2 Pet. 1:8-11).

*Background Passage: 2 Peter 1*

## Session in a Sentence

Jesus calls and equips His people to pursue godly living, which confirms their calling as God’s children.

## Christ Connection

Jesus fully obeyed the Father and died the death we deserved because of our sin. When we trust in Jesus, our sin is forgiven and removed from us and we receive His righteousness in its place. Because of what Jesus has done, we can live in obedience, pleasing God and reflecting our new identity in Christ.

## Missional Application

Because Christ’s righteousness has been credited to us, we strive to live in heartfelt obedience to God in order to demonstrate to those around us the reality of our changed lives in Christ.

# Group Time

GROUP MEMBER CONTENT

## Introduction

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**EXPLAIN:** Use the paragraph on page 47 in the Daily Discipleship Guide (DDG) to establish the disappointing outcome of a child receiving a Christmas gift where the required batteries are not included.

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On a brisk Christmas morning, a child shot up from his bed. He had long waited to open his gifts that lay under the Christmas tree. Finally the moment came; he could now openly indulge in the fun that his parents had buried beneath the debris of wrapping paper and cardboard boxes. After tearing open the first gift, he recognized the toy race car he had always wanted. Jumping up and down, he ran to his parents and hugged them. His gratitude was short-lived, however, as he read the words “Batteries sold separately.”

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**INTERACT:** Ask group members the following question.

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How have you experienced a delay to the joy of something because of an unforeseen complication? (be prepared to give an answer of your own to jump-start the conversation)

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**SAY:** In order to live a godly life, God graciously equips us in Christ with all that we need to do the work that He requires. The spiritual “batteries” He provides are never forgotten, and He richly supplies them to us. However, if we never pursue godly living with fruitfulness and intention, then we neglect the gifts that God has provided so that we might know and serve Him effectively.

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**SUMMARIZE:** In this session, we will discover how to rejoice in God’s provision while putting forth effort in following Jesus with purpose and intention. In his second epistle, the apostle Peter gave believers instructions on how to live out their Christian identity. Here Peter described how God works powerfully in His people, so much so that He chooses not only to save but also equip Christians to live godly lives that glorify Him. As we talk and walk, we confirm God’s grace at work within us and His calling on our lives manifested through us.

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## Point 1: God's people pursue godly living through what Jesus has done (2 Pet. 1:3-4).

**READ** 2 Peter 1:3-4 (DDG p. 48).

<sup>3</sup> His divine power has given us everything required for life and godliness through the knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. <sup>4</sup> By these he has given us very great and precious promises, so that through them you may share in the divine nature, escaping the corruption that is in the world because of evil desire.

**EXPLAIN:** Use the first paragraph in the DDG (p. 48) to emphasize that all of God's holy requirements are met in Christ and that we receive everything necessary in Him to lead a godly life.

Because Jesus Christ, our God and Savior (v. 1), lived the perfect life as a human being here on earth—the life we were incapable of living because of our sin nature—we can be saved in Him. All of God's holy requirements are met in Christ, and thus, by faith, God's people get the incredible privilege of living purposeful lives infused with godliness because of our blameless, risen Savior. Through knowing Him, we can be like Him.

- Apart from Jesus, we cannot be saved, which means we must know Him in order to be saved (see Rom. 10:13-15). Jesus is the revelation of God, and Jesus is revealed to us through the Holy Spirit, who uses the Scriptures and the gospel proclaimed from those Scriptures to change our hearts so we can respond to the call of our Savior to salvation. God's divine power has secured our salvation ("life") and enables our sanctification ("godliness").
- Furthermore, God gives us the opportunity to get to know our Savior more and more, not because we become smarter throughout our lifetime but because God opens our minds to experience more of the person of Christ through intimate knowledge by His power. We experience God's power through the Holy Spirit in us and the Scriptures in our hands, before our eyes, and proclaimed to our ears (v. 3).

*Illustration:* Every college student has probably invested a great number of hours studying specific lecture material in preparation for a long-awaited exam. Yet some students are dismayed to set their eyes on different material on the test than what they studied, and now their only hope is to be graded with a generous curve. The tested content likely was embedded in their textbooks all semester, yet they neglected to study it because it was not included in the material presented in the professor's lectures. Thankfully, God doesn't operate as some ruthless professor who doesn't care about his students' well-being and development. God's people don't have to fear "not knowing what will be on the exam" or dwell in ignorance to His will. Instead, in Christ, God's people can stand fully equipped with everything they need to live the life that God desires of them.

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**INTERACT:** Ask group members the following question.

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 What are some ways we receive the knowledge of Jesus? (through hearing the gospel proclaimed by others; through reading the Scriptures; through Bible study with other believers; through the words and lifestyle of believers who point to Jesus; through hearing God’s Word preached)

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**EXPLAIN:** Reference the second paragraph in the DDG (p. 48) as you explain the origin of our *sinful nature* and our need for a *divine* “Jesus nature.”

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God has made many great promises throughout Scripture, and each one finds its fulfillment in Jesus (1 Cor. 1:20). For God’s glory and our good, Jesus was sent so we might share in a new “Jesus nature,” having been transformed and enabled to properly bear God’s image. Now we don’t have to succumb to our own evil desires or co-sign on the evil desires of this world. In Christ, with this new divine nature, we can now escape the temptations of this world and have victory over the evil one.

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- *The Nature of Natures:* Humans do not fly like birds. Why? Because according to our biological makeup, we do not have the same nature as birds. God strategically made us with a distinct human nature. Similarly, God is incapable of doing evil; He cannot lie, cheat, or steal. Why? Because God’s nature is immutably righteous, good, blameless, and perfect.
  - *Inheriting a Sinful Nature:* Humans were made in the image of God (Gen. 1:26-27), originally having a moral makeup that embodied God’s nature. But our pristine image was quickly tainted by our first parents’ rebellion, and every generation after Adam has inherited a sinful nature incapable of conforming to God’s moral character. No matter how hard we try, humans cannot escape the evil that inherently dwells inside of us.
  - *Sharing in the Divine Nature:* Enter the second “Adam” into history—the perfect, divine, and last Adam (1 Cor. 15:45-49). He was and is the Christ, the only One who could turn this thing around for humanity and redeem a sinful nature, turning it into a divine one. Jesus, the perfect image Himself, is the only One who could restore the perfect image of God back into God’s creation (see Col. 1:15-19; 3:10). When Christ, though perfect in every way, was slaughtered on a cross, He exchanged places with sinners—fully taking on our sin so that sinners would be able to share in God’s nature.
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**INTERACT:** Ask group members the following question.

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 How do believers escape the corruption in the world because of sin? (pursuing godly living in the power of the Holy Spirit; refusing to participate in the sinful desires of this world; devotion to Jesus through commitment to His church and the mutual encouragement found there; when we leave this world through death, we are present immediately with the Lord; at Jesus’ second coming, believers will be resurrected with an incorruptible body)

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## Point 2: God's people pursue godly living with effort (2 Pet. 1:5-7).

**READ** 2 Peter 1:5-7 (DDG p. 49).

<sup>5</sup> For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with goodness, goodness with knowledge, <sup>6</sup> knowledge with self-control, self-control with endurance, endurance with godliness, <sup>7</sup> godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love.

**EXPLAIN:** Use the first paragraph in the DDG (p. 49) to note that God's people are called to make "every effort" to add to our faith by living in a way that looks like Jesus because God's power enables us.

God's people are called to make "every effort" to add to our faith by living in a way that looks like Jesus. Making every effort is not an easy task, as it surpasses intention and delves into our actions—our every action, for that matter. Whether it's a favorable season or not, whether we feel like it or not, we are to strive toward the mark of godliness in every aspect of our lives. This may seem like an impossible feat, but remember what Peter wrote just a few verses prior: God's power enables us.



### Voices from Church History

"Faith is not only necessary to salvation, it is also necessary to live a life pleasing to God. Faith enables us to claim the promises of God—but it also enables us to obey the commands of God."<sup>1</sup>

—Jerry Bridges (1929-2016)

- We were not meant to live the Christian life passively. We cannot expect to look like Jesus simply because we have been saved for a long time. We must actively work out our salvation in God's power as we strive to look like Jesus (Phil. 2:12-13).
- What good is it that God has given His people everything we need for life and godliness if we never exercise our faith? Though Christ's sacrifice was sufficient and God gives salvation freely, not by any effort of our own (Eph. 2:8-9), the evidence of genuine faith is always backed up by our effort and good works (Heb. 11; Jas. 2:14-26).

*Illustration:* Imagine having all the necessary ingredients in your kitchen and possessing the culinary skills to make a spaghetti meal you have been craving. With great expectation as you survey the ingredients, you then migrate to the couch and watch TV, still expecting to eat a spaghetti dinner yet refusing to actually cook the meal. What sense would that make? What good are ingredients without the effort required to make the dish? The same goes for the gracious resources God has granted to us in Christ through the Spirit. Yes, we are saved and sanctified by grace, but grace is not opposed to effort. Rather, grace enables our efforts to increase in virtue and holiness. While our efforts do not contribute to our justification (being declared righteous before God by faith alone in Christ alone), our efforts in sanctification reveal the authenticity of the faith by which we are justified. Saving faith changes our lives so we look more and more like Jesus over time.

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**FILL IN THE BLANKS:** Provide group members with the answers for the call-out in their DDG (p. 49).

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**Justification and Works:** While good works do not **establish** justification, they do **verify** a genuine faith and make our justification **evident** to others.

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**Essential Doctrine “Justification and Works”:** Justification is not the result of human effort or good works but through faith in the righteousness of Christ. Although good works do not lead to justification, justification leads to good works in the life of a believer (Eph. 2:10). Faith without works is dead (Jas. 2:17). While good works do not **establish** justification, they do **verify** a genuine faith and make our justification **evident** to others.

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**EXPLAIN:** Use the second paragraph in the DDG (p. 49) to emphasize that it is only in Christ and through Christ that God’s people have the capability to strive to do good, godly things.

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Having a high view of Christ makes these verses come alive because it is only in Christ that God’s people have the capability to strive to do good, godly things in the first place. We are also only capable of seeing the invisible attributes of God through the visible life of Jesus (2 Cor. 3:18; Col. 1:15), whose righteous life gives us a blueprint as to how to build a life of faith on the foundation of faith Jesus laid (Phil. 2:5-11; 1 Pet. 2:21-25).

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- *Jesus’ Example:*
    - Jesus had relational intimacy with His Father on account of their shared **goodness** (John 10:15).
    - Jesus masterfully exercised unrivaled discernment and **knowledge** (Luke 9:47).
    - Jesus’ **self-control** was tested in facing Satan’s temptations in the wilderness, yet His restraint remained perfect (Matt. 4:1-11).
    - Jesus’ suffering was a lesson in **endurance** to us all as He pushed past the torture, disgrace, and shame of His crucifixion—looking forward to joy (Heb. 12:2).
    - Jesus’ **good, godly deeds** always pointed to His Father (John 14:13).
    - Jesus’ **affection** toward His disciples was evident in His service toward them (Matt. 26:14-39; Luke 22:24-27; John 13:1-17).
    - Jesus’ **love** was as vivid as the display of innocent blood poured out for His enemies (Rom. 5:8).
  - As we strive to look at Christ and emulate Him because of what He has already done in us, our deeds will reflect the One who perfectly embodies each attribute in every way.
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**INTERACT:** Ask group members the following question.

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How does looking to Christ help you practically see how to live out the qualities described in this passage? (be prepared to give an answer of your own to jump-start the conversation)

### Point 3: God's people pursue godly living to confirm their calling (2 Pet. 1:8-11).

**READ:** Ask a volunteer to read 2 Peter 1:8-11 (DDG p. 50).

<sup>8</sup> For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being useless or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup> The person who lacks these things is blind and shortsighted and has forgotten the cleansing from his past sins. <sup>10</sup> Therefore, brothers and sisters, make every effort to confirm your calling and election, because if you do these things you will never stumble. <sup>11</sup> For in this way, entry into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be richly provided for you.

**EXPLAIN:** Use the first paragraph in the DDG (p. 50) to draw attention to what it means for a professing Christian not to reflect God's character in his or her life.

When the qualities of God are not reflected in the way someone lives, that person is sailing through life in a self-inflicted fog of denial. Sailing blind or shortsighted leads to wrong destinations or even shipwreck. Such is the state of the professing Christian who has forgotten his or her past forgiveness of sins and now chooses to dive back into them instead of striving to look like Jesus in every facet of his or her life.

- The professing believer who ignores the instruction to add godly qualities to his or her life avoids the hard lessons that take place as one grows in these godly qualities. Such individuals never know experientially what it looks like to behave like Jesus in the context of broken relationships. They refuse the opportunity to attempt good, godly behavior while battling intrinsic brokenness. They operate in gracelessness because they have forgotten the weight of their own offenses before God. They have allowed their knowledge about God to puff them up (1 Cor. 8:1), possibly demonstrating that they don't really know Him at all (1 John 2:4). Their unfruitfulness is useless to God's work that He wishes to do through His people.
- God uses both circumstances and community to serve as a reminder of His grace as His people work to extend this same grace to others. God's people are, as a result, fruitful in their knowledge of Jesus because this knowledge doesn't merely stay in their minds but also extends to their hearts, impacting both their hands and feet. Their knowledge of God in Christ is working itself out in love through the Spirit's work.

**FILL IN THE BLANKS:** Provide group members with the answers for the call-out in their DDG (p. 50).

**Sanctification:** After we are justified by faith, declared to be in right standing with God through the righteousness of Christ, we undergo a **lifetime** of sanctification where we are continually made more like **Christ** through the work of the **Holy Spirit**. Sanctification affects the whole of a person, transforming one's heart, mind, and **character** to reflect that of Jesus.

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**Essential Doctrine “Sanctification”:** After we are justified by faith, declared to be in right standing with God through the righteousness of Christ, we undergo a **lifetime** of sanctification where we are continually made more like **Christ** through the work of the **Holy Spirit** (Gal. 5:16-26; 2 Thess. 2:13). Scripture speaks of sanctification as a present position (we have already been sanctified) and as a continuing process. Sanctification affects the whole of a person, transforming one’s heart, mind, and **character** to reflect that of Jesus.

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**EXPLAIN:** Use the second paragraph in the DDG (p. 50) to highlight God’s grace in granting us assurance of our salvation though our desire and efforts toward godliness. Yet we must remain cautious against self-deception.

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God is gracious to allow fruitfulness in our lives to confirm the work that He has already done in our hearts. Though we may not witness immediate progress (since growth can be slow), others will be able to attest to God’s imprint on our lives. We can obtain assurance about our salvation through our desire and efforts toward godliness, yet we cannot forget that this is made possible by our past forgiveness of sin in Christ. It is imperative that we still examine ourselves under the light of God’s Word, making sure our lives match our profession of faith and guarding ourselves from self-deception.

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*Illustration:* When an apple seed is planted and it is properly watered and given sunlight, over the course of time, it will eventually grow into a fruit-bearing apple tree. A seed, though small, when properly cared for, becomes something grander than initially imagined upon planting it. The seed so small and so forgettable eventually grows into something so noticeable that it would be impossible to deny its presence.

The same applies with our faith. When the invisible seed of God’s Holy Spirit dwells within us, He is our guarantee of salvation (Eph. 1:14). The seed is planted. Our hearts are awakened to God’s truth. When we nurture our faith with the sunlight and water of obedience in response to God’s truth, the small seed of our faith transforms over time into something so tangible and beautiful—something that other people can notice in some way. However, if we say a seed has been planted in our hearts yet neglect to act in obedience by willingly inviting darkness and drought, how can we confirm that our hearts were truly awakened to God’s truth?

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**INTERACT:** Ask group members the following question.

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What is the relationship between our salvation and our works? (our salvation is the work of God through our faith, and our works are the fruit of God’s work in us; our works do not save us, but they do contribute to our assurance of our salvation; those who are saved will have good works to confirm their faith; our works apart from faith in Christ serve to deceive us with respect to our own righteousness)

# My Mission

**EXPLAIN:** God gives His people everything we need to walk in a way that pleases Him. We are fully equipped to live godly lives because of the person and work of Christ. Our provision is wrapped up in Him, who, by living the ultimate life of godliness, justified His people, soaking up the wrath of God against sin that we rightly deserve. Jesus' righteousness enables His followers to share in the divine nature by faith. Because of all that Christ has done, we now have both the model of and the means for godliness. By the Spirit's power, we seek to embody Christ's attributes, not to earn salvation but as a worshipful reaction to salvation and to support our proclamation of the gospel of Christ to the world.

**READ** the following missional application statement in the DDG (p. 51), and encourage group members to choose at least one of the options below as a way to respond to the truth of God's Word.

Because Christ's righteousness has been credited to us, we strive to live in heartfelt obedience to God in order to demonstrate to those around us the reality of our changed lives in Christ.

- **What steps will you take to pursue a godly life through faith in Jesus Christ?**
- **What are some ways your group can seek to hold each other in loving accountability as you strive to look more like Jesus together?**
- **How will you extend the call of Christ to unbelievers in your life so they can know and believe in Jesus for salvation from sin?**

## Voices from the Church

"If Christ is the basis of our salvation, and faith is the only means for receiving salvation, then how do our works fit into the equation? Instead of seeing our works as earning salvation, as other world religions teach, the Bible teaches that good works are the evidence of salvation. Biblical faith necessarily leads to good works. In other words, faith works."<sup>2</sup>

—David Platt

**CLOSE IN PRAYER:** Father, thank You for equipping us in Christ with all things necessary for life and godliness. Because of the Holy Spirit's work in our lives, we are able to confirm our calling and election as individual members of Your kingdom. Help us to do so as we live out our identity as righteous saints by faith in Jesus so others may know Him by faith as well. Amen.

**INSTRUCT:** As your group departs, encourage group members to read and respond to the **Daily Study** devotions in their DDG (pp. 52-54), which build and expand upon the group study. Also advocate for small groups or families to use **Encourage One Another** (p. 55) for mutual accountability and fellowship grounded upon the foundation of God's Word.

# Daily Discipleship

Throughout the week following the session, use the ideas below to remind and encourage your group members to live as disciples of Jesus Christ. The **Daily Study** devotions in the DDG (pp. 52-54) will help group members get into God's Word and study it for themselves. **Encourage One Another** (p. 55) will help group members and families fellowship with one another with purpose.

## Daily Study

Brief daily devotions in the DDG (pp. 52-54) will help group members take initiative in their own discipleship.

- Make sure all group members have access to a Bible to read. Have some Bibles available to give to guests who may need one, or offer to get one and arrange a time to meet to give it and show how to navigate it for the devotions.
- Share the following idea from the devotion for **Day 3** as a part of point 3 in the session: **A lack of assurance about our standing with God can cause us to retreat from living godly lives. Thankfully, we can have confidence in our victory if we keep our eyes on Jesus and the salvation He provided.**



Consider leading by example and reading the daily devotions yourself with your own DDG. Based on your study, use brief messages throughout the week (group text, email, social media) to encourage your group to keep up with their daily time in God's Word and to live it out. Here are a couple of examples you can use:

- **Day 2:** "Our godly lives are not just for ourselves but to show a dying world that God isn't far off but near to us in Christ."
- **Day 5:** "As God the Father instructed the disciples to listen to His Son in the flesh, we too should listen to the testimony of His Son presented in the Scriptures."



Visit [www.GospelProject.com/Blog](http://www.GospelProject.com/Blog) for additional content and resources you can use to help group members gain more insight into their daily studies. Send group members a link or a portion of a blog post or other content that you believe will be helpful and encouraging for their time in God's Word.

## Encourage One Another

This brief plan for fellowship and accountability in the group member's DDG (p. 55) will help groups of 2-4 people to meet sometime during the week to reflect on the session and to share how God is working and they are responding. It could also be used for family discipleship with students and children who are using *The Gospel Project* in their groups.

- **Encourage group members to build up each another by affirming where they see fruit in one another's lives that is confirming of their salvation.**
- See yourself as a member of the group who also needs encouragement in the faith, and participate in such a group this week.

# Additional Commentary

## Point 1: God's people pursue godly living through what Jesus has done (2 Pet. 1:3-4).

“In Christ we have everything we need to live a life that honors God. But how? How do we live such a life, given our proclivity toward sin and failure and the tendency of our hearts to wander? Peter tells us it is through ‘his precious and very great promises’ that believers become ‘partakers of the divine nature’ (v. 4). As we receive, believe, and are changed by the lavish promises of God, supremely the promise of the gospel, we are restored to the status of the sanctified and God-glorifying men and women we were created to be. This does not mean we become deity; but it does mean we share in Christ’s nature derivatively, in that we become the ‘imagers of God’ that we (unlike every other created thing) were created to be. As partakers in the divine nature, we are freed from the bondage of sin and are now able to glorify our Lord in all that pertains to life and godliness.”<sup>3</sup>

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“The knowledge believers need is not some new or previously secret knowledge but knowledge of Christ. He has *called us* by his powerful grace and *given us* all we need for life and godliness (1:3). He has even promised that we can *participate in the divine nature* as God’s Spirit comes to live within us. As we share God’s nature, our characters will become like his, and we will no longer give in to corrupt desires (1:4). God’s gracious promise that we can share his nature is a powerful incentive to adopt a radically changed lifestyle. So Peter exhorts us to supplement our faith with virtues that are universally admired, beginning with moral *goodness*. Our understanding of what this means will grow as we grow in our knowledge of God. *Self-control* will help us to deal with evil cravings and develop *perseverance*. *Godliness*, an attitude of reverence for God, will enable us to reflect God’s love through our *affection* for fellow believers and *love* for all (1:5-7).”<sup>4</sup>

## Point 2: God's people pursue godly living with effort (2 Pet. 1:5-7).

“Because of God’s generous provision in Christ, Peter encouraged his readers to build upon their foundation of **faith**—their initial acceptance of God’s love—with the Christian virtues of **goodness, knowledge, self-control, endurance, godliness, brotherly affection, and love**. These graces, sometimes called the ‘ladder of faith,’ are the fruit of sharing in the divine nature. Each successive quality seems to spring from the previous one. Useful and fruitful Christians have an abundance of the qualities mentioned in vv. 5-7. On the other hand, those who lack them are **blind and shortsighted** because they have forgotten the cleansing from their **past sins**; they deliberately forget the background from which God delivered them. ‘Past sins’ refers to sins committed before professing faith in Christ.”<sup>5</sup>

“The logical relationship between vv. 3-4 and vv. 5-7 is crucial. Verses 5-7 summon the readers to a life of virtue, but vv. 3-4 remind us that a life of godliness is rooted in and dependent upon God’s grace. Believers should live in a way that pleases God *because* Christ has given them everything they need for life and godliness. The indicative of God’s gift precedes and undergirds the imperative that calls for human exertion. Peter did not lapse, therefore, into works righteousness here since he grounded his exhortations in God’s merciful gifts. The striking feature in these verses is the chain of eight virtues . . . It does seem significant that the chain begins with faith and ends with love. Faith is the root of all the virtues, and love is the goal and climax of the Christian life. Otherwise, we should not press the order of the virtues listed, nor should we think Peter encouraged his readers to work first on one virtue before moving to the next one.”<sup>6</sup>

### **Point 3: God’s people pursue godly living to confirm their calling (2 Pet. 1:8-11).**

“The calling of all those who come to faith is certain, but those who consistently add good works to the sacraments of faith which they have received are the ones who make their calling and election certain in the eyes of those who observe them. The opposite is also true, for those who go back to their crimes after they have been called and who die in their sins make it clear to everyone that they are damned.”<sup>7</sup>

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“‘Calling’ and ‘election,’ words closely related in the Greek (*klesis* and *ekloge*, respectively), probably work together to emphasize the single concept Peter has in mind: God’s, or Christ’s, effective drawing of the sinner to himself for salvation (see v. 3). The Christian must earnestly seek to grow in Christian virtue in order to ‘validate’ this calling of God. Some theologians have difficulty with the idea that Christians must work in order to validate their election and to ensure that they will not fall away. And we must carefully nuance just what this means—and more importantly, what it does not mean. But we must not evaporate Peter’s language of its seriousness and strength: Striving for spiritual maturity is not an option in the Christian life.”<sup>8</sup>

### References

1. Jerry Bridges, *The Pursuit of Holiness* (Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 2006), 111.
2. David Platt, “Is Your Definition of Faith Biblical?” *Radical*, July 27, 2018, [radical.net/is-your-definition-of-faith-biblical](http://radical.net/is-your-definition-of-faith-biblical).
3. Jared C. Wilson, “2 Peter,” in *Gospel Transformation Bible* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2013), 1699, n. 1:3-4.
4. Chris Gnanakan, “2 Peter,” in *South Asia Bible Commentary* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2015), 1750.
5. Terry L. Wilder, “2 Peter,” in *CSB Study Bible* (Nashville, TN: B&H, 2017), 1988, n. 1:5-7; n. 1:8-9.
6. Thomas R. Schreiner, *1, 2 Peter, Jude*, vol. 37 in *The New American Commentary* (Nashville, TN: B&H, 2003), 296-98.
7. Bede, *On 2 Peter*, in *Ancient Faith Study Bible* (Nashville, TN: B&H, 2019), 1558, n. 1:10.
8. Douglas J. Moo, *2 Peter, Jude*, in *The NIV Application Commentary* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2012) [Wordsearch].