



Power for the Present

Part Two: "Seven Steps to Christian Excellence"

2 Peter 1:5-11

DR. JOE K. TAYLOR, SENIOR PASTOR, SOUTH RENO BAPTIST CHURCH, RENO, NV • MARCH 4, 2018

All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted. • Pew Bible Page Number is 1117.

In the STUDY VERSE SECTION, God's Word is printed in regular faced text with Pastor Joe's commentary in the smaller faced text.

Biblical words, underlined with dots, are explained in the brackets. • Pastor Joe's

Perfection is not attainable, but if we chase perfection, we can catch excellence...

Besides, who really wants to be a failure? – Vince Lombardi, NFL Coach (circa 1960s)



1. The START of Christian Excellence.

STUDY VERSE SECTION - 2 Peter 1:5, NASB95 - ⁵ Now for this very reason [rf., all God's promises to us—including salvation] also, applying [means "to bring in" or "to supply liberally"] all diligence ["zeal" and "eagerness" implies focus], in your faith [that saved you] supply [Gk: ἐπιχορηγέω, (epi-choir-a-gail) lit., "the leader of a chorus, from which we get our visual of a "choir director;" the director brings the seven traits together, like a choir, and directs them to work together for a purpose; we have faith from God, now, go for moral excellence, knowledge, temperance, etc.]

God's Sovereignty: Salvation is a gift to be received; not a gift to be earned. (Fact: It cannot be earned.)

Man's Responsibility: As followers of Christ, we must, with eagerness, seek to be characterized with *Christian excellence*.

"Spiritual Growth is not automatic."

2 Peter 1:5, GNT - ⁵ Because you have His presence in you and His promises for you, do your best to add "these things" to your lives...

2 Peter 1:5, JBP – For these reasons, you must do your utmost from your side, to see that your saving faith carries with it real goodness of life. Your salvation must be accompanied by things like this: knowledge, self-control, endurance, devotion to God...

2. The SPOILS from Christian Excellence.

2 Peter 1:8–11, NASB95 - ⁸ 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. ⁹ For he who lacks these qualities is blind or short-sighted, having forgotten his purification from his former sins. ¹⁰ Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble; ¹¹ for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you.

- **Fruitfulness** – ...they render you neither useless nor unfruitful... (v. 8)
- **Spiritual Discernment** – ...knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ... (You won't be) blind or short-sighted... (v. 9)
- **Assurance of Salvation** – ...certain about His calling and choosing you... (v. 10.a)
- **A guarantee that you will never fall again** – as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble (v. 10b) ["never fail" – GNB]

3. The STEPS to Christian Excellence.

2 Peter 1:5–7, NASB95 - ⁵ Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge, ⁶ and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness, ⁷ and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love.

- **Moral Excellence** – virtue, holiness, morality, the decision to do what's right.
- **Knowledge of God** – an understanding of biblical truth lived out in life.
- **Self-control** – never allowing anything/one to control us except God.
- **Perseverance** – keeping on the "narrow path" no matter what.
Tongues (gossip), Tempers (anger), Temptations (of the flesh)
- **Godliness** – "walk in view of His greatness," it's God-like-ness.
- **Brotherly Kindness** - it's keeping God first, others second, and self, dead-last.
- **Sacrificial Love** – it's that self-sacrificing, never-ending, all-encompassing love that Jesus exhibited when He came to earth to die for sin. At the heart of agapē living is self-sacrifice. It's keeping God first, others second, and self, dead-last.

We live in such a nauseating age, one that literally is sickening to our Lord. We are interested in everything under the sun other than living an excellent Christian life.

– Dr. Don Cantrell (Commentary on 2 Peter)