

A photograph of ancient Greek temple ruins, featuring several tall, fluted columns and a partially collapsed entablature against a cloudy sky. The image is overlaid with a dark blue semi-transparent banner at the top and bottom.

Remember: Pursue a Godly Life

2 Peter 1:12-15

An Exposition through 2 Peter: Established in the Truth

As you **walk with** Jesus according to His truth, Jesus is the “*wisdom of God*” for you.

Paul said, “*but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God... But by [God’s] doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God...*” (1 Cor. 1:24, 30)

Peter wants his readers to live in the fulness of **God's resources** in Christ and in Scripture, so they need to do their **spiritual diligence** of putting their feet in the theological cement of God's calling and choosing them as they seek to live out these virtues.

He's tying **theological foundation** to **praxiological faithfulness**.

Abounding in the virtues in verses 5-7 involves you in a **spiritual process** of growing in likeness to Jesus. Peter tells you some of the blessings of giving yourself energetically and enthusiastically to **living out** what Jesus is working in you:

1. You will be useful and fruitful in building God's kingdom (v.8).
2. You will be helped to focus your life on spiritual things (v.9).
3. You will be strengthened to not stumble into sin (v.10).
4. *"the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you"* (v.11).

How is this focus, this spiritual process and commitment described in other places in the Bible?

- *“But put on the Lord Jesus Christ”* (Rom. 13:14)
- *“but be filled with the Spirit”* (Eph. 4:18)
- *“Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you...”* (Col. 3:16)
- In Jesus *“are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge* (Col 2:3)

As Peter faces martyrdom and offers this final letter of instruction to his readers, he wants them (and us) to have **true** knowledge of God's sufficient **provision** in our salvation and to have **experiential** knowledge of God's sufficient **power** in our sanctification.

Characteristics of Peter's pastoral concerns for God's people

I. **A Gospel Heart (2 Peter 1:12)**

By preaching, teaching, and counseling, God's pastors help God's people remain **focused on** and **committed to** the gospel.

That's what verses 5-7 are about — these verses tell us how we pursue the gospel or how we **engage in gospel living**.

II. A Gracious Heart (2 Peter 1:12)

Established (*sterizo*) = strengthen

This word has an important history of use in Peter's life as it relates to his **own** weakness, falling, or stumbling.

Peter doesn't want them to lose their spiritual footing, their **stability** in the truth.

As Christ's undershepherd, he builds up God's people in the truth. He's **arming their spiritual focus** for the fight ahead.

III. A Servant's Heart (2 Peter 1:13)

IV. A Sacrificial Heart (2 Peter 1:14)

“Even though believers are already established in the truth, they need to be ‘stirred up’ or ‘aroused’... by reminders. Reminders arouse and provoke believers, prompting them to prize the gospel afresh. Peter hoped that his words would stab the believers awake so that they would reject what the opponents taught. Believers know the gospel, and yet they must, in a sense, relearn it every day.” *(Tom Schreiner)*

IV. A Zealous Heart (2 Peter 1:15)

“The leader of the Twelve wanted believers to avoid the hazards of spiritual negligence; therefore, he labored diligently through his preaching and writing to reiterate the important issues. He desired to leave a final will and testament to remind saints of the greatness of salvation, the blessedness of assurance, and to make certain that false doctrine did not rob them of their rich spiritual heritage.” *(John MacArthur)*

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