

A photograph of ancient Greek temple ruins, featuring several tall, fluted columns and a horizontal entablature. The scene is set against a bright, slightly hazy sky. The image has a blue-tinted overlay, particularly in the top and bottom sections where text is placed.

God's All-Sufficient Sanctification

2 Peter 1:5-8

An Exposition through 2 Peter: Established in the Truth

Our sanctification is about our progressive **holiness**,
our **progressive growth** in Christlikeness.

It's about how we **spiritually mature** or,
as Peter says at the conclusion of his letter,
how we **grow in** the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ.

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“There is a natural drift to the human heart, and it is a sinful drift away from the truth.” (John Street)

Hebrews 2:1

*“Cease listening, my son, to **discipline**, and you will stray from the words of knowledge.”* (Proverbs 19:27)

- **listening** = to hear and respond in conformity to; to hear, heed, and obey.
- **discipline** (*musar*) = used as a warning, as correction, instruction, reproof, and discipline. The sense behind it is training to improve your strength or self-control.

Keep in mind that Satan's design is to **draw you away from** God's truth and then to **replace it** with something else—to **deceive** you with false helps and a false hope, and to keep you from listening to God.

“If you keep My commandments, you will abide in my love; just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love... you are my friends if you do what I command you.”
(John 15:10,14)

Abiding in His love **is the heart** of our walk with Him.

Through a true knowledge of Christ, we are blessed with

- A sufficient **Savior** (2 Peter 1:1-2)
- A sufficient **Scripture** (2 Peter 1:3-4)
- A sufficient **sanctification** (2 Peter 1:5-11)

Peter outlines spiritual qualities of a grace-given, progressive sanctification.

These are **useful** and **fruitful** virtues for pursuing a holy life, or for growing in the grace and knowledge of Jesus.

I. Faith

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- God's gift of faith is the root of all spiritual fruit.
- **“Trusting God** is the root from which all other virtues spring. Those who rely on God and his promises begin to live a new way. Peter's theology here is in accord with Paul's who said that faith expresses itself in love (Gal. 5:6). All the godly virtues in the Christian life find their source in faith, in trusting God for everything, and the culmination and climax of such faith is love.” *(Tom Schreiner)*

I. Faith

- The fruit of Christian **works** blossoms by the roots of our **faith** in Jesus Christ. We are to give ourselves **entirely** and **energetically** to working **out** what God has worked **in** us in Jesus.

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- Because **God has supplied** you with all you need for life and godliness, **you diligently supply** your own **commitment, support,** and **effort** to put your faith in Jesus to work in how you live your life for His glory.

II. Moral Excellence

III. Knowledge

III. Knowledge

- This is not intellectual prowess, but it is **spiritual** knowledge, knowledge by and of the **Holy Spirit**. It refers to the “practical discrimination of good and evil; intelligent appreciation of what is the will of God in each detail of practice.” (*JFB Commentary*)

IV. Self-control

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- This is a gift of the Holy Spirit mentioned in Galatians 5:22-23. This is what we need to fight against **unfulfilled selfish desires** that war in our hearts (James 4:1-2) or the ***lusts of deceit*** (Ephesians 4:22).

V. Perseverance

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- “*Hupomonē* does not simply accept and endure; there is always a forward look in it. It is said of Jesus... that for the joy that was set before him, he endured the Cross, despising the shame (Hebrews 12:2). That is *hupomonē*, Christian steadfastness. It is the courageous acceptance of everything that life can do to us and the transmuting of even the worst event into another step on the upward way.” (*William Barclay*)

VI. Godliness

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- What God has given us in Christ—life and godliness—we can **pursue** and **express** with joy and thankfulness in our hearts.

VII. Brotherly Kindness

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- “The focus is on the love between fellow believers, on the family-like devotion that should characterize the Christian community. Here Peter used a word that is distinctive of the Christian community in the sense that all believers are brothers and sisters.” (*Tom Schreiner*)

VIII. Love

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- This is the love of Jesus in coming to earth as a human being **for us**, in living a sinless life **for us**, in going to the cross **for us**, and in being raised to new life **for us**. It is sacrificial and self-denying for the highest good of others and to the greater glory of God.

VIII. Love

- Love is the greatest commandment (Matt. 22:37-40).
- Love is the highest way (1 Cor. 13:4-8).
- Love is the goal of Christian teaching (1 Tim. 1:5).
- And God's love binds together all other virtues of Christian living (Col. 3:18).

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