

***“Now faith is the substance
of things hoped for, the
evidence of things not seen.”***

Hebrews 11:1

As such:

Hebrews 11:6: “He who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”

Hebrews 11:7: “By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that is in keeping with faith.”

How then must we live to follow Christ by faith?

Proverbs 3:5-6: Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.”

How is the genuineness of our faith expressed?

1 Peter 1:7-9: “Though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see *Him*, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of *your* souls.”

What’s more?

Hebrews 12:2: “Looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.”

Why?

2 Corinthians 5:7: “For we walk by faith, not by sight.”

How genuine is my faith in God through Christ right now?

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WHY MUST WE LIVE BY FAITH?

"I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes." Romans 1:16

Why must we live by faith in Christ?

1 Corinthians 3:11: "For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ."

As such:

John 3:16: "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

John 3:17: "God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved."

John 3:18: "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."

In truly believing:

Galatians 2:20: "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."

2 Corinthians 4:18: "We do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen *are* temporary, but the things which are not seen *are* eternal."

What's more?

Romans 5:1: "Having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."

Do I understand the nature of true faith, and most importantly its core purpose for eternal life in Christ with God?

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HOW MUST WE LIVE BY FAITH?

“Casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.”

2 Corinthians 10:5

How do I build my faith in God?

Romans 10:17: “Faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.”

As such:

2 Timothy 3:16-17: “All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

Hebrews 4:12: “The Word of God *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, --- and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

Then, how is true faith in God expressed in a believer’s life?

Hebrews 12:1-2: “Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares *us*, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith.”

Why?

Luke 14:27: “Whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.”

Therefore:

2 Corinthians 13:5: “Examine yourselves *as to* whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified.”

Hebrews 10:23: “Let us hold fast the confession of *our* hope without wavering, for He who promised *is* faithful.”

Do I understand that faith requires that I follow Christ as Lord?

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What does trusting God accomplish in a believer's life?

Jeremiah 17:7-8: "Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, and whose hope is the LORD. For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, which spreads out its roots by the river, and will not fear when heat comes; but its leaf will be green, and will not be anxious in the year of drought, nor will cease from yielding fruit."

Why?

Psalms 9:10: "Those who know Your name will put their trust in You; for You, LORD, have not forsaken those who seek You."

Psalms 118:8: "It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in people."

As such:

Isaiah 12:2(b): "The LORD, the LORD himself, is my strength and my defense; He has become my salvation."

Psalms 28:7: "The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in Him, and I am helped."

Therefore:

Proverbs 3:5-6: "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths."

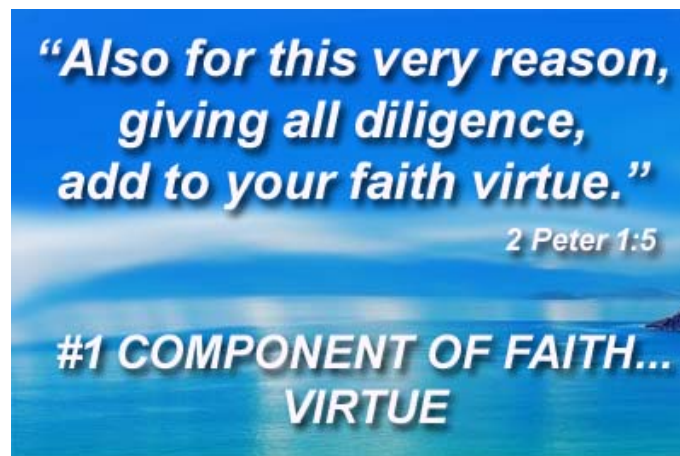
Joshua 1:9: "Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

What's more?

Isaiah 12:2(a): "Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid."

Am I anchored in Christ so I trust God in all circumstances?

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How do we add virtue to our faith as believers in Christ?

Matthew 22:37-39: "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is *the* first and great commandment. And *the* second *is* like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'"

What's more?

Colossians 3:12-14: "Put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also *must do*. But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection."

Ephesians 4:1-2: "Walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love."

Philippians 4:8: "Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things *are* noble, whatever things *are* just, whatever things *are* pure, whatever things *are* lovely, whatever things *are* of good report, if *there is* any virtue and if *there is* anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things."

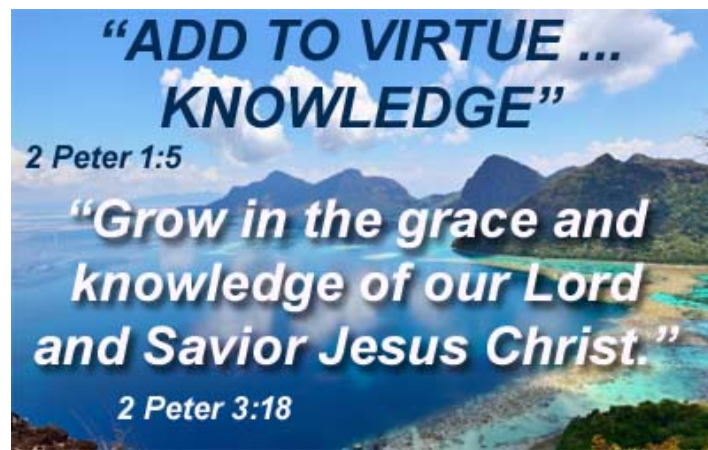
Why?

Leviticus 19:2: "You must be holy because I, the LORD your God, am holy."

Therefore:

Galatians 5:24: "Those *who are* Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires."

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How do we find the knowledge of God?

Proverbs 2:1-5: "My son, if you receive my words, and treasure my commands within you, so that you incline your ear to wisdom, *and* apply your heart to understanding; yes, if you cry out for discernment, *and* lift up your voice for understanding, if you seek her as silver, and search for her as *for* hidden treasures; then you will understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God."

Why?

Proverbs 2:6: "The LORD gives wisdom; from His mouth *come* knowledge and understanding."

Our only secure source of knowledge being:

2 Timothy 3:16-17: "All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."

The purpose of knowledge being:

Ecclesiastes 7:12: "The advantage of knowledge is that wisdom preserves the life of him who has it."

Therefore:

Proverbs 1:7: "The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of knowledge."

And...

Proverbs 1:5: "A wise *man* will hear and increase learning, and a man of understanding will attain wise counsel."

Proverbs 18:15: "The heart of the prudent acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge."

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As followers of Christ, why must we control our passions and desires?
Romans 8:13: “For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.”
How seriously did Jesus warn us on the necessity to exercise self-control?

Mark 9:43: “If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed, rather than having two hands, to go to hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched.”

Mark 9:45: “And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame, rather than having two feet, to be cast into hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched.”

Mark 9:47: “And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye, rather than having two eyes, to be cast into hell fire.”

The reason He added:

Mark 8:36: “What will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?”

What’s more?

Matthew 7:21: “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.”

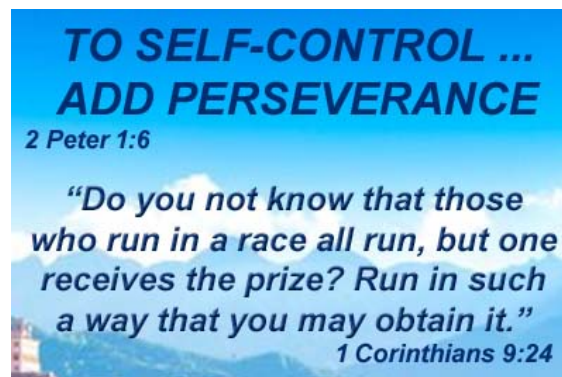
As true believers in Christ:

2 Timothy 1:7: “God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”

Therefore:

Will I stand with God and live to abide in Him?

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How must I apply myself to persevere in following Christ, no matter the circumstances of life?

Philippians 3:13-14: “One thing *I do*, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”

Romans 5:3: “And not only *that*, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope.”

Why?

2 Timothy 3:12: “All who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.”

As such:

2 Timothy 2:12: “If we endure, we shall also reign with *Him*. If we deny *Him*, He also will deny us.”

The reason why:

Hebrews 10:36: “You have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise.”

Consequently:

Philippians 3:12: “I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.”

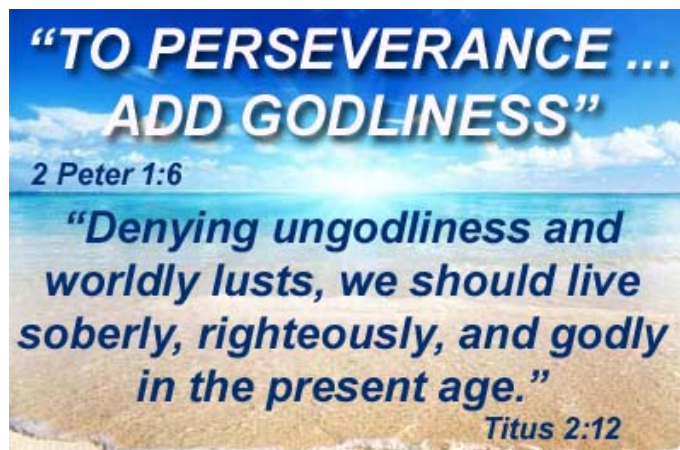
1 Corinthians 9:26-27: “I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as *one who* beats the air. But I discipline my body and bring *it* into subjection.”

Therefore:

Hebrews 12:1-2: “Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith.”

Am I ready and willing to run the race to the end?

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What does the Word of God teach us about godliness?

1 Timothy 6:11: “But you, O man of God, --- pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness.”

How?

Matthew 6:33: “Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness.”

Romans 12:1: “Present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is* your reasonable service.”

Jude 21: “Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.”

Why?

Psalms 1:1-3: “Blessed *is* the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; but his delight *is* in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night. He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper.”

Therefore:

2 Corinthians 7:1: “Having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.”

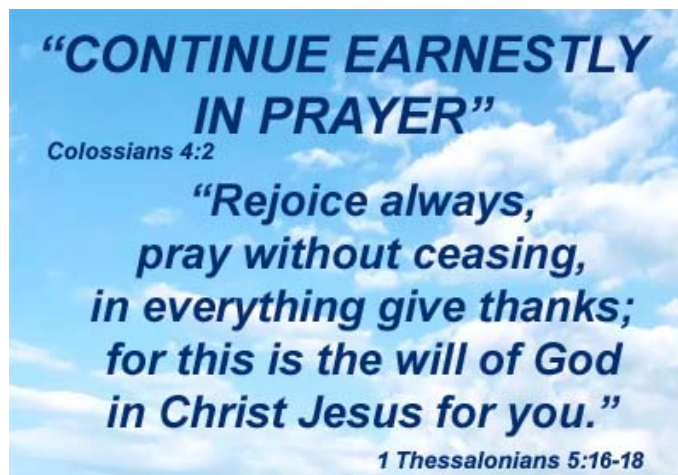
1 Corinthians 6:20: “Glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.”

As such:

Galatians 5:22-23: “The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.”

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Why is prayer a necessity to abide in Christ and honor God?

Matthew 26:41: "Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed *is* willing, but the flesh *is* weak."

What's more?

2 Chronicles 7:14: "If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land."

Jeremiah 29:12-13: "Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart."

As such:

Psalms 145:18: "The LORD is near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth."

How then are we enjoined to pray?

Philippians 4:6-7: "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

In Jesus' own words:

Luke 18:1: "Men always ought to pray and not lose heart."

Therefore:

Colossians 4:2: "Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving."

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**“TO BROTHERLY KINDNESS
ADD LOVE”**

2 Peter 1:7

**“God is love, and he who
abides in love abides in God,
and God in him.”**

1 John 4:16

Why must we love, if we testify that we have faith in God?

1 John 4:7-8: “For love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.”

As such Jesus said:

Matthew 22:37-39: “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is *the* first and great commandment. And *the* second *is* like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

Then He added:

John 13:34-35: “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

How is true love defined?

1 Corinthians 13:4-6: “Love suffers long *and* is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth.”

And the greatest example of love is:

Romans 5:8: “God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

Therefore:

1 Corinthians 16:14: “Let all *that* you *do* be done with love.”

What’s more?

1 John 3:18: “Let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.”

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THE TRUE CHRISTIAN FAITH

***“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ,
he is a new creation; old things
have passed away; behold,
all things have become new.”***

2 Corinthians 5:17

What blessings can we expect from abiding in Christ through faith?

Romans 5:1-2: “Having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.”

As such:

Romans 8:38-39: “I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Therefore:

1 John 3:2: “Now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.”

Revelation 3:10: “Because you have obeyed my command to persevere, I will protect you from the great time of testing that will come upon the whole world to test those who belong to this world.”

Isaiah 26:3: “You will keep *him* in perfect peace, *whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You.*”

What’s more?

Hebrews 3:14: “We have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end.”

How genuine is my faith so I steadfastly abide in Christ?

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