

APPENDIX 3B

Character According to 2 Peter²

2Pt 1⁵ *For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; ⁶ and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; ⁷ and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love.*

1. **Faith.** *Add to your faith ... (2Pt 1:5).*
Faith is the bedrock of character because faith is simply trusting God and His promises. Do not allow your mind to develop thought patterns of disbelief.
2. **Goodness.** *Add to your faith goodness (2Pt 1:5).*
This means moral excellence. It means being above reproach and not falling victim to the abuse of money, sex, or power. Deal ruthlessly with every sin and cultivate a single-hearted devotion to Jesus. A person of integrity is a whole person; there is no difference between what he appears to be in public and who he really is in private.
3. **Knowledge.** *And to goodness, knowledge (2Pt 1:5).*
Jesus said we are to love God with all our mind (Mt 22:37). God wants us to keep growing in body, mind and spirit. Continue to read, keep asking questions, and thirst for knowledge and wisdom.
4. **Self-control.** *And to knowledge, self-control (2Pt 1:6).*
Many people today are seething with rage and anger. By the power of the Holy Spirit we can keep our emotions and actions under control and not take part in destructive thinking or actions. Our legitimate appetites are to be brought under the Spirit's control, as well. True meekness, as perfectly displayed by Jesus, is strength under control.
5. **Perseverance.** *And to self-control, perseverance (2Pt 1:6).*
It is always too soon to be discouraged. No matter how difficult your circumstances may be, never, never, never lose your faith! To win the race, you must stay in the race! *"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus..." (Heb 12:1-2).*
6. **Godliness.** *And to perseverance, godliness (2Pt 1:6).*
Godliness is not self-righteousness. In fact, it is the very opposite. Godliness means cultivating God's life in us, drawing upon the power of His Spirit. It means to experience the "exchanged life," exchanging all that we are not for all that Jesus Christ is. As we yield to Him, we are literally being conformed into the likeness of Christ (Ro 8:29).
7. **Brotherly kindness.** *And to godliness, brotherly kindness (2Pt 1:7).*
God calls on us to exhibit a quality that people are starved to receive: kindness. In God's eyes, your compassionate touch, your word or note of encouragement, the prayers you offer for a friend in need - these simple acts may be the most important things you do today. In a world seething with competitiveness, your kindness will really stand out!
8. **Love.** *And to brotherly kindness, love (2 Pt 1:7).*
Love should be the compelling force behind all we do. It is the greatest of all the Christian virtues. The love of Christ is part of the fruit of the Spirit that God will develop in us as we trust Him. God has poured out His love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us (Ro 5:5).

²Excerpted from *Growing Servant Leader* by Bobb Biehl and David Shibley. Used by Permission of Global Advance.