



## Daily Verse and Comment

### 2 Peter 1:5-11

(5) But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, (6) to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, (7) to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. (8) For if these things are yours and abound, *you will be* neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. (9) For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. (10) Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; (11) for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

*New King James Version*

It is noteworthy that the apostle Peter lists *virtue* as the first thing that a Christian should strive to add to his [faith](#), implying that this combination provides a solid foundation upon which the elect can build a spiritual house ( [II Peter 1:5](#)).

Equally noteworthy are the biblical descriptions of Ruth as virtuous ([Ruth 3:11](#)) and Solomon's declaration of the value of a virtuous woman ([Proverbs 31:10](#)). Both cases depict virtuous women as willing to work hard in self-sacrificial service for others ([Ruth 1:16](#); [2:3](#), 11, 17; [Proverbs 31:12-27](#)).

In these contexts, virtue is moral excellence, the essence of which is self-sacrifice, which is also the essence of good works. While virtuous behavior does not guarantee absolute purity and innocence, it shows itself in the attitudes that drive a successfully righteous, Christian walk.

Finally, the apostle Paul preaches regularly that virtuous behavior is a necessary ingredient in the exercise of Christian faith ([Galatians 6:10](#);

[Ephesians 2:10](#); [Philippians 2:3-4](#); [Colossians 3:12-13](#); [Hebrews 13:16](#)). As we read in [1 Timothy 6:18-19](#), he emphasizes this same excellence in character as foundational to the elect for entering the [Kingdom of God](#): “Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.”

— Martin G. Collins

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