

For If Ye Do These Things Ye Shall Never Fall

(Part 4)

I. Introduction:

A. Let's remember that our goal is exceeding growth (**II Thessalonians 1:3**).

1. Growth to be stronger (**Hebrews 5:14**).
2. Stronger to be able to withstand all (**Ephesians 6:10-13**).

B. We have discussed...

1. The importance of knowledge (**II Peter 1:1-2**).
2. How we have been given all things pertaining to life and godliness (**II Peter 1:3**).
3. How we have been called to glory and virtue (**II Peter 1:3**).
4. The exceeding great and precious promises ahead of us (**II Peter 1:4**).
5. How we have become partakers of the divine nature (**II Peter 1:4**).
6. How we have escaped the world and all therein (**II Peter 1:4**).
7. How we are to diligently add to the foundation of our faith (**II Peter 1:5**).

II. Body: Now Let's Add To Our Faith Virtue (**II Peter 1:5**).

A. The term translated "virtue" has a lot to consider and we never want to miss what is meant by something being taught to us (cf. **Matthew 9:9-13**).

1. The definition: "properly, manliness (valor), i.e. excellence (intrinsic or attributed): — praise, virtue. a virtuous course of thought, feeling and action virtue, moral goodness any particular moral excellence, as modesty, purity" (Strong's # 703).
2. Other passages wherein this term appears in the New Testament:
 - a. **Philippians 4:8** "virtue"
 - b. **I Peter 2:9** "praises"
 - c. **II Peter 1:3** "virtue"

B. We need to show valor [great courage] or "manliness" (**I Corinthians 16:13**).

1. Able to be strengthened through things we face rather than weakened by them (**II Corinthians 12:10** and **James 1:1-4**).
2. Don't fear the wrong things (**Luke 12:4-5**; cf. **I John 4:18**).
3. Strong faith helps us have courage (**Hebrews 11:32-38**).
4. Faithful [dependable] brethren can help too (**Luke 22:31-32**).

C. We need to display excellence [be outstanding; abound more; or extremely good] (**I Thessalonians 4:1-2**).

1. Keep getting better, brighter (**Proverbs 4:18**).
2. Think about doing things heartily (**Colossians 3:22-25**).
3. When the Corinthians were expected to help needy saints, Paul said they abounded in other areas (**II Corinthians 8:7**). Can we say that?

D. We need to act in ways that give God praise and glory (**Matthew 5:14-16**).

1. Good works, not for a show or self-glorifying (**Matthew 6:1-7; 16-18; 23:1-12**, and **I Corinthians 10:31**).
2. When we excel, live aright, and are filled with good fruit; we must measure that such glory is not to us (**Philippians 1:10-11**).
3. One way to assure we glorify God in all things is to maintain a humble mindset of thanksgiving in all things (**Colossians 1:10-13** and **I Thessalonians 5:16-18**).

E. We need to be morally good and pure (**Romans 13:12-14** and **I Peter 1:13-16**).

1. Pure on the inside (**Ezekiel 18:31**, **Jeremiah 4:14**, **Matthew 5:8**, **Mark 7:14-23**, and **James 4:6-10**).
2. Actions that signify purity (**Proverbs 20:11**, **I Timothy 4:12**, **II Timothy 2:22**, and **James 3:13-18**).
3. Making sure we are really pure and not just self-deceived (**Proverbs 30:12**).

III. Conclusion: Let's keep building so that our work abides (**I Corinthians 3:14**).