

For If Ye Do These Things Ye Shall Never Fall

(Part 6)

I. Introduction:

A. From our proper foundation of faith, from knowledge we started with in our beginning as Christians, we have discussed diligently adding virtue and applied knowledge to our proper foundation (**II Peter 1:1-5**).

1. These things often tie together (**Proverbs 24:3-6**).
2. We know is not good to be without knowledge (**Proverbs 19:2**).
3. What is it like to be without self-control (**Proverbs 25:28**)?

B. We are permitted to enjoy things of this world (**Ecclesiastes 5:18-19** and **I Timothy 6:17**).

1. Yet, we have to be able to control ourselves so that we don't grow too fond of the things of this world (**I John 2:15-17**).
2. This is a challenging task. Many of us once were deeply rooted in the world and we converted out of it (**Ephesians 2:1-3** and **Acts 3:19**).
 - a. Taught not to conform to the world (**Romans 12:1-3**).
 - b. Taught the world is wicked (**I John 5:19**).
 - c. Taught against carnal thinking (**Romans 8:5-8**).
 - d. Taught against certain relationships (**James 4:4**).
 - e. Learned that the influence of evil is strong (**I Corinthians 15:33**).
 - f. Yet, permitted to enjoy certain levels of carnality (**I Corinthians 6:12-7:5**, **I Corinthians 7:31-34**, **I Corinthians 10:27**, **I Timothy 4:1-5**, etc.).
 - g. As you grow and learn, you might find there is more social liberty in the law of Christ (**James 1:25**) than your conscience once allowed (**Romans 14**). [I.E. observing days, eating meats, certain feasts, etc].
3. This is where strong moral living to the glory of God, mature knowledge, and self-control come together to help us (**Titus 2:11-14**).

II. Body: And To Knowledge Temperance (**II Peter 1:6**).

A. Temperance, as used in our context (**II Peter 1:6**), means: "self-control (especially continence): — temperance. Self-control (the virtue of one who masters his desires and passions, esp. his sensual appetites)" (Strong's # 1466).

1. Sinners, which most of us have been, serve lusts (**Titus 3:3**).
2. The Lord teaches us to control our lusts (**Romans 6:1-23**).
3. This requires us to bring our minds to where our thinking needs to be rather than what our flesh wants us to think (**II Corinthians 10:1-5**).

B. Temperance is in contrast to carnality (**Galatians 5:16-23**).

1. We have to learn not to serve our wants, but His wants (**II Corinthians 5:14-17**).

2. Setting aside our sinful desires with a different focus (**Colossians 3:1-17**).
 3. Consider anger as an illustration (**Proverbs 16:32**):
 - a. Anger is often carnal (**Colossians 3:5-8**).
 - b. Yet, there is a certain type and level of anger we can have (**Ephesians 4:26-27**).
 - c. It has to be controlled (**Proverbs 14:17** and **James 1:19-20**).
 - C. Think about mastering your desires and passions (**Proverbs 25:16**).
 1. Can you crucify sinful, carnal lusts (**Galatians 5:24**)?
 2. You might have to find lawful ways to satisfy what might otherwise be sinful desires (**I Corinthians 7:6-9**; cf. **Hebrews 13:4**).
 3. In times wherein there is no lawful way to satisfy a desire, you have to abstain from what is causing that internal battle (**Romans 13:13-14** and **I Peter 2:11**; cf. **Hebrews 11:24-26**).
 4. CAUTION: As you feel spiritually prepared to take on the world because you've learned to control your desires, don't think you're above being tempted (**Mark 14:38**).
- III. Conclusion: Temperance is necessary for a faithful finish (**I Corinthians 9:24-27**).