

2 Peter 1:1–11

- 1 *Simon Peter, a bond-servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have received a faith of the same kind as ours, by the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ:*
- 2 *Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord;*
- 3 *seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.*
- 4 *For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.*
- 5 *Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge,*
- 6 *and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness,*
- 7 *and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love.*
- 8 ***For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.***
- 9 ***For he who lacks these qualities is blind or short-sighted, having forgotten his purification from his former sins.***
- 10 *Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble;*
- 11 *for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you.*

Instructions

Memory verse: 2 Peter 1:8–9.

Observation (What It Says)

- In 1:1–4, list all the things *God has given us*.
- What are the benefits to living by his precious promises?
- What are the *character traits* (or virtues) that Christians should be *adding* to their life?
- What is the result when you have these qualities *and grow in them*? What is the result if you don't? (see 8–11).

Interpretation (What It Means)

- What does a believer *really need* to grow and change?
- What's the danger of not developing these virtues and values?

Application (What It Means for Me)

- Am I fruitful as a Christian (1:8)? If not, why not? What does that look like?
- Does verse 9 describe the way I act? Am I blind and shortsighted, having forgotten about my redemption in Christ?
- Do I lack in having:
 - *the groundwork for faith?*
 - *the courage for Christ?*
 - *compassion like Christ?*

If so, which of the character traits might I need to spend more time developing?

The G_____ for Christlike Character: _____ to Christ. (1:5)¹

Faith: Being a “partaker of the divine nature” through the righteousness of Jesus Christ.

Excellence: Cultivating a God-mandated purpose to develop and display the excellencies (character) of Jesus Christ.

Knowledge: Cultivating a God-taught understanding of the person, the work, and the ways of Jesus Christ.

These traits produce a whole-hearted disciple who chooses the appeals and ideals of Christ and rejects the appeals and ideals of the world.

The B_____ of Christlike Character: _____ for Christ. (1:6)

Self-Control: Cultivating a God-empowered mastery of my internal desires

Endurance: Cultivating a God-sustained faithfulness under external pressure

Godliness: Cultivating a God-honoring devotion to Jesus Christ that promotes righteousness and opposes evil

These traits produce a brave-hearted disciple who advances Christ and His ways and opposes evil in himself and others regardless of risk to himself.

The T_____ of Christlike Character: _____ like Christ. (1:7)

Brotherly Kindness: Cultivating a God-engendered affection for and service to those in the “household of faith”

Love: Cultivating a God-imitating mindset that scripturally and sacrificially meets the spiritual needs of others.

These traits produce a tender-hearted disciple-maker who seeks the lost and who by his example and effort disciples others to live a Christ-centered life.

	Loving God with My Whole Heart	Loving Neighbors as Myself
	The Groundwork for Christlike Character (v.5)	The Backbone of Christlike Character (v.6)
Virtues	Saving Faith	Brotherly Kindness
	Pursuing the Excellence of Christlikeness	Love
	Knowledge	
Values	Godliness	
	Commitment to Christ	Courage for Christ
		Compassion like Christ

¹ These definitions and text divisions are taken from *Essential Virtues* by Jim Berg.

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Instructions

Memory verse: 2 Peter 1:8–9.

Observation (What It Says)

- In 1:1–4, list all the things *God has given us*. **Everything pertaining to life and godliness; great and precious promises.**
- What are the benefits to living by his precious promises? **You can become partakers of the divine nature — a little "heaven on earth." You can escape the corruption and decay that is in the world (think the fall in Genesis 3) because of death.**
- What are the *character traits* (or virtues) that Christians should be *adding* to their life?
- What is the result when you have these qualities *and grow in them*? What is the result if you don't? (see 8–11).

Interpretation (What It Means)

- What does a believer *really need* to grow and change?
- What's the danger

Application (What It Means for Me)

- Am I fruitful as a Christian (1:8)? If not, why not? What does that look like?
- Does verse 9 describe the way I act? Am I blind and shortsighted, having forgotten about my redemption in Christ?
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The **Groundwork** for Christlike Character: **Commitment** to Christ. (1:5)²

Faith: Being a “partaker of the divine nature” through the righteousness of Jesus Christ.

Excellence: Cultivating a God-mandated purpose to develop and display the excellencies (character) of Jesus Christ.

Knowledge: Cultivating a God-taught understanding of the person, the work, and the ways of Jesus Christ.

These traits produce a whole-hearted disciple who chooses the appeals and ideals of Christ and rejects the appeals and ideals of the world.

The **Backbone** of Christlike Character: **Courage** for Christ. (1:6)

Self-Control: Cultivating a God-empowered mastery of my internal desires

Endurance: Cultivating a God-sustained faithfulness under external pressure

Godliness: Cultivating a God-honoring devotion to Jesus Christ that promotes righteousness and opposes evil

These traits produce a brave-hearted disciple who advances Christ and His ways and opposes evil in himself and others regardless of risk to himself.

The **Trademark** of Christlike Character: **Compassion** like Christ. (1:7)

Brotherly Kindness: Cultivating a God-engendered affection for and service to those in the “household of faith”

Love: Cultivating a God-imitating mindset that scripturally and sacrificially meets the spiritual needs of others.

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