



Virtue: Living a Life of Moral Excellence

Hebrews 1:9

You have loved righteousness **[You have delighted in integrity, virtue, and uprightness in purpose, thought, and action]** and **You have hated lawlessness (injustice and iniquity)**. Therefore God, [even] Your God (Godhead), has anointed You with the oil of exultant joy and gladness above and beyond Your companions.

1 Peter 2:9

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a dedicated nation, [God's] own purchased, special people, that you may set forth the wonderful deeds and **display the virtues and perfections of Him** Who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.

Matthew 5:48

You, therefore, must be **perfect [growing into complete maturity of godliness in mind and character, having reached the proper height of virtue and integrity], as your heavenly Father is perfect.**

2 Peter 1:4-11

³For His divine power has bestowed upon us all things that [are requisite and suited] to life and godliness, through the [full, personal] knowledge of Him Who **called us by and to His own glory and excellence (virtue)**. ⁴By means of these He has bestowed on us His precious and exceedingly great promises, so that through them you may escape [by flight] from the moral decay (rottenness and corruption) that is in the world because of covetousness (lust and greed), and become sharers (partakers) of the divine nature. ⁵For this very reason, adding your diligence [to the divine promises], employ every effort in exercising your faith to develop **virtue** (excellence, resolution, Christian energy), and **in [exercising] virtue** [develop] knowledge (intelligence), ⁶And in [exercising] knowledge [develop] self-control, and in [exercising] self-control [develop] steadfastness (patience, endurance), and in [exercising] steadfastness [develop] godliness (piety), ⁷And in [exercising] godliness [develop] brotherly affection, and in [exercising] brotherly affection [develop] Christian love. ⁸**For as these qualities are yours and increasingly abound in you, they will keep [you] from being idle or unfruitful unto the [full personal] knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One).** ⁹**For whoever lacks these qualities is blind, [spiritually] shortsighted, seeing only what is near to him, and has become oblivious [to the fact] that he was cleansed from his old sins.** ¹⁰**Because of this, brethren, be all the more solicitous and eager to make sure (to ratify, to strengthen, to make steadfast) your calling and election; for if you do this, you will never stumble or fall.** ¹¹**Thus there will be richly and abundantly provided for you entry into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.**

Philippians 4:8

For the rest, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is worthy of reverence and is honorable and seemly, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely and lovable, whatever is kind and winsome and gracious, if there is any **virtue** and excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, **think on and weigh and take account of these things [fix your minds on them].**

Conquering Temptation: Living Life above the Power of Sin

God Will Help Us Overcome When We Are Tempted

Hebrews 4:15

For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was **in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.**

Hebrews 2:17-18

Wherefore **in all things** it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. For **in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succor them that are tempted.**

1. Succor = help

It is the greek word *boetheo* meaning "to come to the aid of anyone, to succour"

2 Peter 2:9

The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:

1 Corinthians 10:13

There hath no **temptation** taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will **with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.**

James 1:12

Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

The Devil is the Tempter, Not God

James 1:13

Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man.

Luke 4:13

And when the devil had ended all the **temptation**, he departed from him for a season.

1 Thessalonians 3:5

For this cause, when I could no longer forbear, I sent to know your faith, lest by some means the **tempter** have **tempted** you, and our labour be in vain.

Conquering Temptation by Overcoming Lust

James 1:13

But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.

Ephesians 2:3

Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

Titus 3:3

For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another.

1 Peter 1:14

As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance:

1 Peter 4:3

For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries

1 John 2:16

For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

Titus 2:12

Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

1 Peter 4:2

That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God.

1 Peter 2:11

Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul

How to Conquer

Romans 13:14

But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.

Galatians 5:16

This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.