

Character...

Mt. Vernon Christian Church

Character...It All Adds Up

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Character...Adding Daily – Part 2

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II Peter 1:1-11 (from the NIV1984)

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II Peter 1:1-11 (from the NIV1984)

¹ Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ,
To those who through the righteousness of our God
and Savior Jesus Christ have received a faith as
precious as ours:

² Grace and peace be yours in abundance through
the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

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II Peter 1:1-11 (from the NIV1984)

³ His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. ⁴ Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

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II Peter 1:1-11 (from the NIV1984)

⁵ For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; ⁶ and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; ⁷ and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love.

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II Peter 1:1-11 (from the NIV1984)

⁸ For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ But if anyone does not have them, he is nearsighted and blind, and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins.

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II Peter 1:1-11 (from the NIV1984)

¹⁰ Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never fall, ¹¹ and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

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Character:

- The **character** of a person or place consists of all the qualities they have that make them distinct from other people or places.
- Your **character** is your personality, especially how reliable and honest you are. If someone is **of good character**, they are reliable and honest. If they are **of bad character**, they are unreliable and dishonest.
- If you say that someone has **character**, you mean that they have the ability to deal effectively with difficult, unpleasant, or dangerous situations.

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This will make a difference in your life...and that of others!

- *In the midst of a world of performance...*

We are freely offered a gift that makes all the difference.

- *In the midst of a world of doubt and skepticism...*

We can have a vibrant faith that grows day by day.

- *In the midst of a world of anxiety...*

We can experience an abundance of grace and peace.

- *In the midst of a world with increasing personal isolation...*

We can have a daily personal relationship with Jesus.

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This is what we can know, and we can totally count on it.

- *Our inner longing can be met...*

The gift God gives includes everything it takes for us to live in a wholesome, godly way.

- *This gift is received through a relationship...*

We receive this gift through personally knowing Jesus.

- *This gift provides certainty for the future...*

We are given “very great and precious promises.”

- *This gift makes it possible to experience transformation.*

We can participate in God’s nature, and escape evil.

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To enjoy this gift and live out these promises, we must act.

- *It doesn't just happen...*

We must “make every effort” – be intentional and focused, and give it our all!

- *It's neither passive, nor is it “over-night”...*

We must add regularly to each of 8 godly characteristics.

- *It makes a difference how we engage, and invest our time.*

We are to “be all the more **eager** to make our calling and election sure.”

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So we need to add daily to these godly characteristics...

- Faith
- Goodness
- Knowledge
- Self-control
- Perseverance
- Godliness
- Brotherly Kindness
- Love

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How do we add to our faith?

- We hear from God. (Romans 10:17)
- We practice faith in the little, daily events of life.
- We remind ourselves and others that our faith is more precious to God than gold.
- We recognize that God is faithful.
- We recognize that timing is in God's hands.
- We recognize that we will grow as we add daily to our faith.

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The results of doing these things is really worth it!

- *If we do these things in increasing measure...*
We will be effective and productive.
- *If we do these things in increasing measure...*
We will get to know Jesus better.
- *If we do these things in increasing measure...*
“We will never fall.”
- *If we do these things in increasing measure...*
“We will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”