

# Character...

Mt. Vernon Christian Church

# Character...It All Adds Up

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# Character...Adding Daily – Part 6

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**God has given us an amazing gift...the core (seed) of all that we need to live a godly life!**

- A gift purchased by Jesus Christ, freely given to us.
- A gift to be received by each one who trusts in Jesus.

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**The gift works well...when we add to it daily.**

- Each day we invest in “growing” what God has given us.
- We’re to add daily to each of eight vital qualities.
- These qualities form an amazing godly character.

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## Character...

- the underlying moral and personal foundation that serves to make you uniquely you, and which influences the ways and the degree to which others can rely on or trust in you

*Your character is the blend of your personality and beliefs, as they are practiced in a daily way...making you not only who you are, but making you the person others can expect or trust you to be.*



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

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

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<sup>8</sup> 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. <sup>9</sup> 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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These are eight areas in which we can grow...adding daily.

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

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## ***How do we add to our brotherly kindness?***

(Brotherly kindness = “*Philadelphian*” = love within a family, love of siblings; loyal, faithful love among friends)

- We seek to have a gracious (grace-filled) attitude toward others.
- We are alert to observing needs around us.
- We take the initiative to do unto others as we would have them do unto us.
- We enjoy, celebrate, cultivate healthy friendships.

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## *How do we add to our love?*

*(Love = “agape” = sacrificial love... “to choose to sacrificially give of myself for the good of another”)*

- We explore the example of Jesus and how he loved those around him.
- We take note when loving someone “costs a lot.”
- We ask God for discernment, and then...as God leads us... we choose to sacrifice for the good of others.
- We thank God for the opportunity to love, and do it again.

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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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## *How do we add to our goodness?*

(Goodness = Strength, Power, Excellence, Virtue)

- We recognize the source of true power
- We learn from the One who is goodness (virtue, strength)
  - Luke 8:40-56 (43-48); Mark 5:21-43 (24b-34)
  - Luke 6:17-19 (19)
- We expect (trust) God to flow through us.
- We practice this daily...in little ways, big ways.

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## *How do we add to our knowledge?*

(Knowledge = a personal acquaintance, a personal relationship; knowing relationally first-hand; John 17:3)

- Remind myself that God knows me personally, and loves me
- Invest specific time each day seeking to know God better
- Be on the lookout each day for those times when God reveals himself to me
- Cultivate a friendship with God!



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## *How do we add to our self-control?*

(Self-control = exercising the power to do what is right or good or best, based on internal choice, not external pressure or requirement)

- Recognize that God has given his power to me, through the Holy Spirit; Christ lives in me! Colossians 1:27
- Seek at least once per day to make a decision based on an internal choice, rather than requiring “outer controls”
- Repent when I do not practice this; invite a friend to pray

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## *How do we add to our perseverance?*

(Perseverance = sticking with it in spite of opposition)

- Know that facing challenges is a normal part of life
- Know that God is greater than any of our challenges
- Use difficulty as a way to sift out what is good or not, what is priority and what is not priority
- Ask God for help, strength, wisdom
- Accept the help God gives through others
- Know that in our weakness God's strength shows up

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## *How do we add to our godliness?*

(Godliness = “like God” in character and actions)

- Get to know God – what is he like?
- Choose traits in God that you especially want to reflect in your own life
- Practice thinking and acting in ways God would (as revealed in Scripture)
- Look for, and be mentored by, godly people

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## ***Adding Daily: with God's Gift, Eight Confessions for Each Day...***

- I will seek to hear from God, believe, and act accordingly.
- I look forward to God's power (virtue) flowing through me.
- I will seek to know God...to really know and grow with him.
- I will practice inner control which is greater than the external.
- I will choose to stick with it, in spite of difficulty or opposition.
- I will seek to grow today in one of God's character traits.
- I will eagerly look for opportunities to *multiply God's kindness*.
- I choose to sacrificially give of myself for the good of another.

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The results of doing these things are 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.”



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## Character...

A Quote by Helen Keller:



“Character cannot be developed in ease and quiet. Only through experience of trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened, vision cleared, ambition inspired, and success achieved.”

Photo and Quote from

<https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/tag/character>

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