

ARISE AND BUILD

Neh. 2:20

“...we his servants will arise and build...”

“Arise and Build Your Faith”

2 Pet. 1:1-4

2 Pet. 1:1 Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, **to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ:**

2 Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,

3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that *pertain* unto life and godliness, **through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:**

4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be **partakers of the divine nature**, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

5 And beside this, giving all diligence, **add to your faith** virtue; and to virtue knowledge;

A few weeks ago we began a new series from 2 Peter –
“Arise and Build Your Faith.”

Faith in Christ is the beginning, but, according to the Holy Spirit’s moving upon the Apostle, faith needs to grow, and believers are commanded to develop a growing faith:

2 Pet. 1:5 And beside this, **giving all diligence, add to your faith...**”

This passage begins by laying the foundation that is necessary to have BEFORE adding to our faith. According to the Scriptures, salvation rests entirely upon faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Many professing Christians live with little assurance of salvation. We have considered three main concerns:

1. "How to be saved."
2. "How to be sure."
3. "How to be sanctified."

I. FAITH'S CONVICTIONS, 1:1-21

A. As to the walk with God, 1:1-15

1. **The secret of commencing well**, 1:1-4

a. How to be saved, 1:1-3b

b. How to be sure, 1:3c – 4a

(1) That wonderful person, 1:3c

(2) Those wonderful promises, 1:4a

c. How to be sanctified, 1:4b-c

(1) The great essential, 1:4b

(2) The great escape, 1:4c

- ❖ Before a believer comes to Christ, the susceptibility of sin corrupts lives.
- ❖ After a believer comes to Christ, everything changes!

This past Wednesday evening, we considered what it takes to be an effective witness to our neighbor by studying Eph. 4:17—32. In verse 23, we considered the word “renewed:”

Eph. 4:23 “And **be renewed in the spirit of your mind;**”

Original Word: ἀνανεόω

Transliteration: ananeoō

Usage: I renew; mid: I renew myself, am renewed.

Properly, going up to a *higher* stage (level of sanctification) by God's power; divinely renewed.

ananeoō (“make new in relation to time”) is **only used in Eph 4:23**. Here believers are reminded of God's continuous offer to bring new strides in their sanctification through “sanctified reasoning” – **raising the meaning *up to new levels of spiritual comprehension and reality***. <https://biblehub.com/greek/365.htm>

This morning, we are, again, encouraged to take “Christianity” to a higher level. In order to do so, we must implement what we find in 2 Pet. 1:5:

2 Pet. 1:5 And beside this, **giving all diligence, add to your faith** virtue; and to virtue knowledge;

2. **The secret of continuing well**, 1:5-9

a. The path of diligence, 1:5-8

i. Faithful addition, 1:5-7

(1) We must not only believe, but also behave, 1:5a “And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue...”

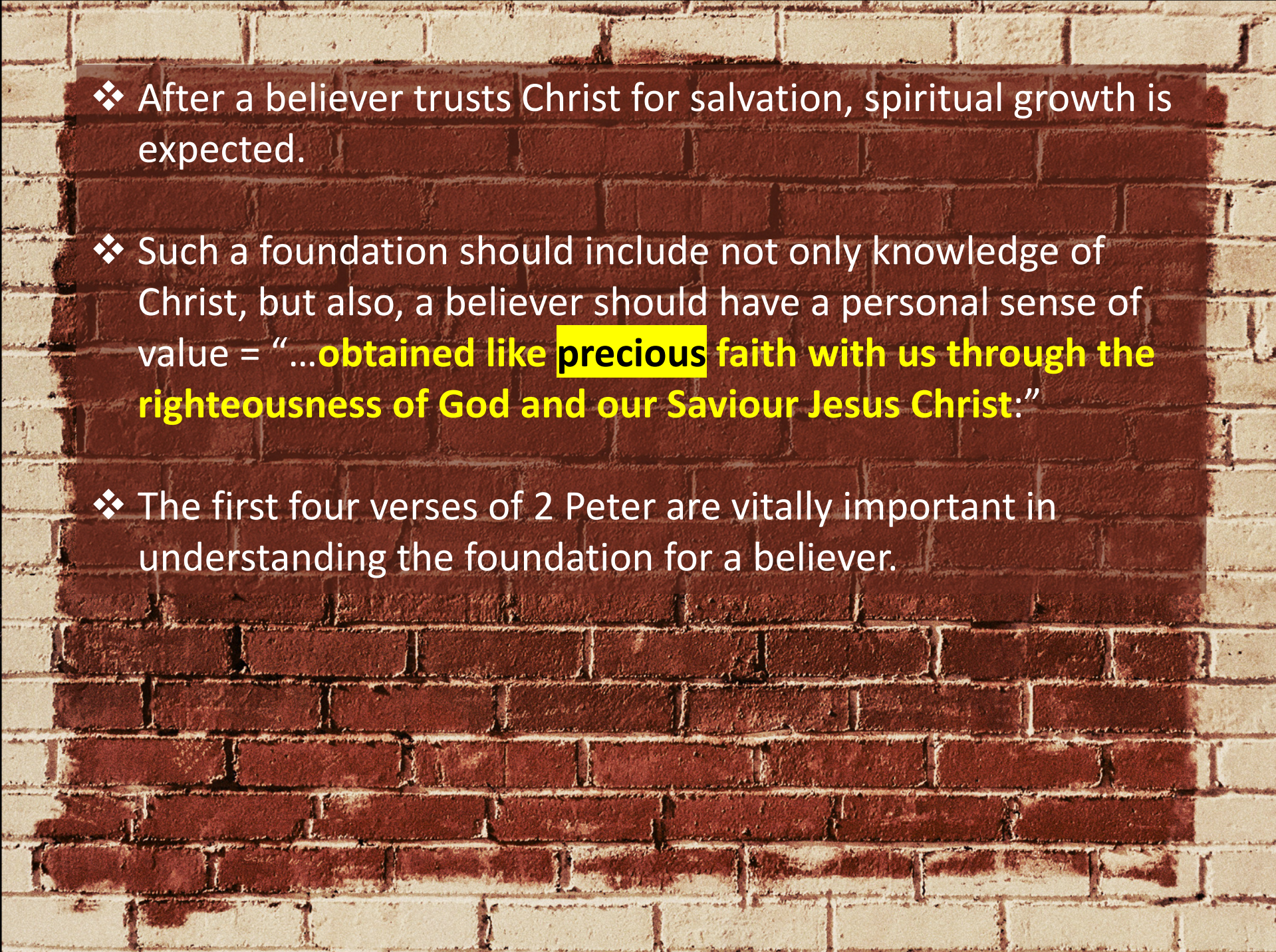
❖ The foundation of faith for a true believer rests entirely upon the imputing of righteousness of the Lord Jesus Christ, as found in the first four verses of this passage.

❖ The “works of man,” are NOT included in procuring salvation.

Eph. 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God:

9 **Not of works**, lest any man should boast.

Titus 3:5 **Not by works of righteousness which we have done**, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

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- ❖ After a believer trusts Christ for salvation, spiritual growth is expected.
 - ❖ Such a foundation should include not only knowledge of Christ, but also, a believer should have a personal sense of value = “...**obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ:**”
 - ❖ The first four verses of 2 Peter are vitally important in understanding the foundation for a believer.



❖ There are seven vital aspects we are commanded to add to our foundation of faith –

- virtue
- knowledge
- temperance
- patience
- godliness
- brotherly kindness
- charity



These seven aspects can be grouped into three distinctive parts:

(1) The character of our faith; “virtue and knowledge”

(2) The character of our feelings; “temperance and patience”

(3) The character of our fellowship. “godliness, brotherly kindness, and charity”

❖ The beginning of verse five stresses how important it is for a believer to “add” to our foundation of faith when we consider the opening statement...” And beside this...”

Original Word: παρεισφέρω

Transliteration: pareispheró

Definition: to bring in, to supply besides

Usage: I contribute besides, bring in besides, smuggle in.

pareisphérō (from *pará*, "from close-beside" and *eispherō*, "bring into") – properly, "bring deeply into," i.e. from very close beside). *pareisphérō* ("personally carry-through") is **only used in 2 Pet 1:5 referring to carrying through with real personal involvement (energy)**. This strongly stresses the need of the believer's *deep, personal* involvement in the faith-life.

<https://biblehub.com/greek/3923.htm>

- ❖ As important as the first four verses are in establishing the foundation of faith, verse five indicates that the next step is just as equally important.
- ❖ The effort involved to add to our faith is expedient dedication.

Original Word: σπουδή

Transliteration: spoudé

Definition: haste, diligence

Usage: (a) speed, haste, (b) diligence, earnestness, enthusiasm.

spoudé (from *speúdō*, "move quickly, speed on") – **properly, swiftness to show zealous diligence, i.e. one's "best"** (full effort by making haste).

For the believer, *spoudé* ("speedy diligence") means *quickly obeying* what the Lord reveals is *His priority*. This elevates the *better* over the good – the *more important* over the important – and does so with *earnest swiftness(intensity)*. <https://biblehub.com/greek/4710.htm>

- ❖ A believer is commanded to focus upon “adding” to the foundation of faith.

Original Word: ἐπιχορηγέω

Transliteration: epichorégeó

Usage: I supply, provide (perhaps lavishly), furnish.

epixorégéō (from *epí*, "appropriately on," which intensifies *xorégeō*, "richly supply everything needed for an ancient chorus to be a grand production") –

properly, lavishly supply, as it is suitable (apt) to outfit all that is needed to accomplish a grand objective.

<https://biblehub.com/greek/2023.htm>

- ❖ A believer’s “grand objective” is to be conformed to the image of Christ.

Rom. 8:29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate **to be conformed to the image of his Son**, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

- ❖ When a believer diligently “adds” to the foundation of faith, in essence, it is a ministering unto self for spiritual development.
- ❖ The first spiritual trait listed to “add” is virtue.
- ❖ “Virtue” is the implementation of the present call to live a holy life.

Original Word: ἀρετή

Transliteration: areté

Definition: moral goodness, virtue

Usage: goodness, a gracious act, virtue, uprightness.

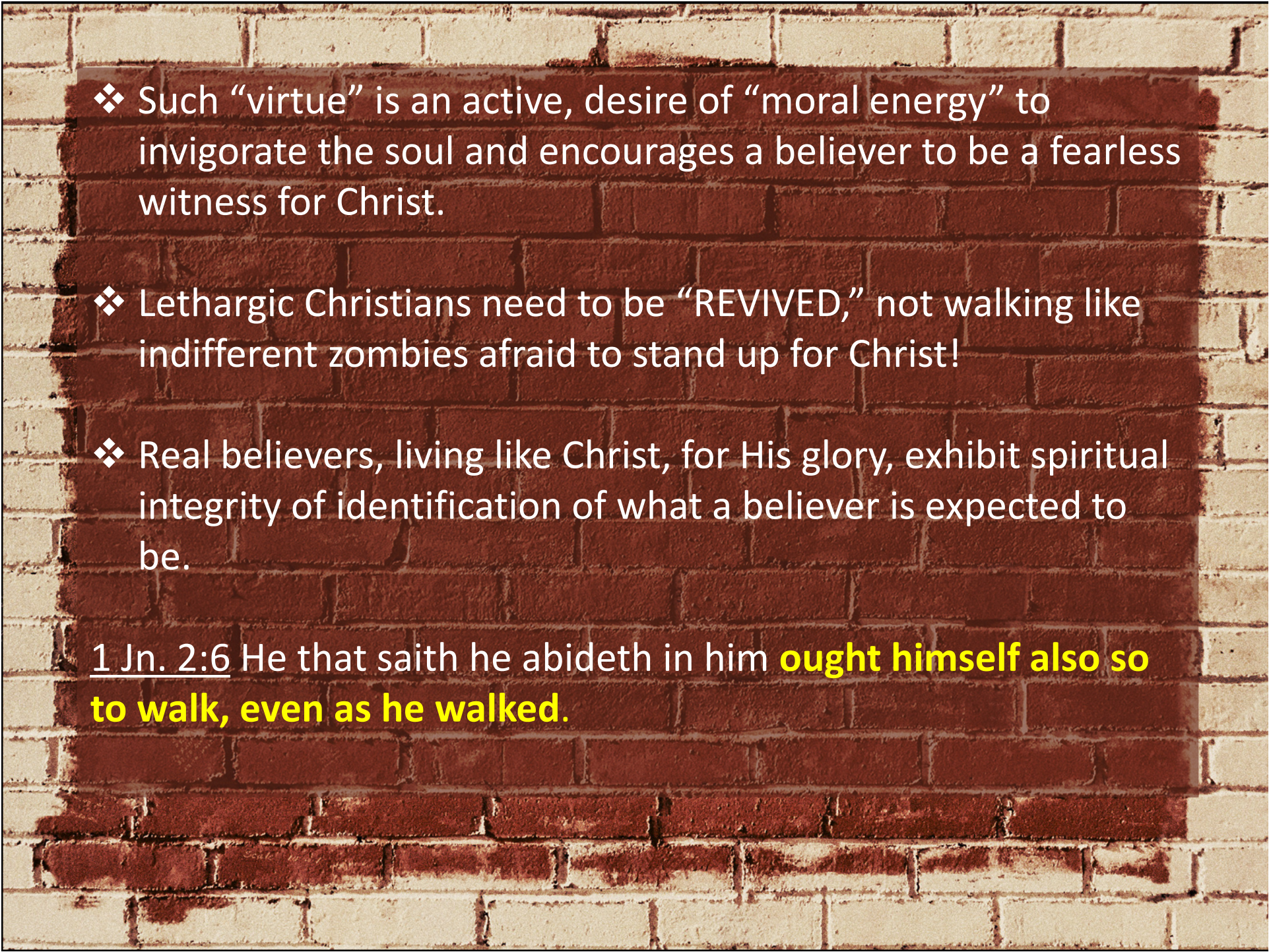
aréte – **properly, virtue ("moral excellence") which is displayed to enrich life.**

<https://biblehub.com/greek/703.htm>

Moral goodness; the practice of moral duties and the abstaining from vice, or a conformity of life and conversation to the moral law. **The practice of moral duties from sincere love to God and his laws, is virtue** and religion.

VIRTUE is nothing but voluntary obedience to truth.

<http://www.kingjamesbibledictionary.com/Dictionary/virtue>

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- ❖ Such “virtue” is an active, desire of “moral energy” to invigorate the soul and encourages a believer to be a fearless witness for Christ.
 - ❖ Lethargic Christians need to be “REVIVED,” not walking like indifferent zombies afraid to stand up for Christ!
 - ❖ Real believers, living like Christ, for His glory, exhibit spiritual integrity of identification of what a believer is expected to be.

1 Jn. 2:6 He that saith he abideth in him **ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.**

(2) We must not only have integrity, but also be informed, 1:5b "...and to virtue knowledge;"

Original Word: γνῶσις

Transliteration: gnósis

Definition: a knowing, knowledge

Usage: knowledge, doctrine, wisdom.

gnósis – **functional** ("working") knowledge gleaned from first-hand (personal) experience, connecting theory to application; "application-knowledge," gained in (by) a direct relationship.

<https://biblehub.com/greek/1108.htm>

❖ Scriptural knowledge applied to virtue = energetic zeal that is modified by truth.

❖ Christianity is a spiritual relationship which must have spiritual balance:

Jn. 4:24 God *is* a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship *him in spirit and in truth.*

❖ Spiritual activity may be a “form of godliness” (2 Tim. 3:5.)

❖ Proper spiritual activity, virtuous energy, that is tempered with knowledge, will produce additional balance to a believer’s daily life

Conclusion

Rom. 11:33 **O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God!** how unsearchable *are* his judgments, and his ways past finding out!

2 Cor. 4:6 For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, **to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.**

Col. 2:1 For I would that ye knew what great conflict I have for you, and *for* them at Laodicea, and *for* as many as have not seen my face in the flesh;

2 That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ;

3 In whom are hid **all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.**

2 Pet. 3:18 But grow in grace, and *in* **the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.** To him *be* glory both now and for ever. Amen.