

# ARISE AND BUILD

Neh. 2:20

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

*“Arise and Build Your Faith – a Great Gift for Christmas”*

2 Pet. 1:1-6



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;

6 And to knowledge **temperance**; and to temperance **patience**; and to patience **godliness**;



A few weeks ago we began a new series from 2 Peter – *“Arise and Build Your Faith.”* This morning, we will modify the title to include...

*“Arise and Build Your Faith – a Great Gift for Christmas”*

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

❖ 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”

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 beginning of verse five stresses how important it is for a believer to “add” to the foundation of faith – “And beside this...”
- ❖ **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 “diligent” effort involved to add to our faith is **expedient dedication**.
- ❖ A believer is commanded to focus upon “adding” to the foundation of faith.
- ❖ The first spiritual ingredient listed to “add” to the foundation of faith is virtue.
- ❖ Such “virtue” is an active, desire of “moral energy” to invigorate the soul and encourages a believer to be a fearless witness for Christ.

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

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



As we approach the Christmas season, one of the best gifts you could give yourself, your loved ones, and your church, is to give yourself the commitment to adding to your faith.

We have covered the first two aspects of the command to “ADD” to our faith: virtue and knowledge. “Virtue” and “knowledge” exhibit the “character of our faith.” This morning we will observe verse six which contains three more aspects: temperate, patience, and godliness.

We will focus upon “the character of our feelings” = “temperance and patience.”

(3) We must not only be taught, but also be temperate, 1:6a “And to knowledge **temperance...**”



**TEMPERANCE**, *noun* [Latin *temperantia*, from *tempero*.]

1. Moderation; **particularly, habitual moderation in regard to the indulgence of the natural appetites and passions**; restrained or moderate indulgence; as *temperance* in eating and drinking; *temperance* in the indulgence of joy or mirth. *temperance* in eating and drinking is opposed to gluttony and drunkenness, and in other indulgences, to excess.

2. Patience; calmness; sedateness; moderation of passion.

<http://webstersdictionary1828.com/Dictionary/temperance>



**Original Word:** ἐγκράτεια

**Transliteration:** egkrateia

**Usage:** self-mastery, self-restraint, self-control, continence.

*egkráteia* (from *en*, "in the sphere of" and *krátos*, "dominion, mastery") – **properly, dominion within, i.e. "self-control"** – proceeding out from *within* oneself, but *not by oneself*.

For the believer, *egkráteia* ("self-control, Spirit-control") can only be accomplished *by the power of the Lord*.

Accordingly, *egkráteia* ("true mastery from within") is explicitly called a *fruit of the Holy Spirit* (Gal 5:23).

<https://biblehub.com/greek/1466.htm>

❖ Temperance overcomes vulnerability and leads to a victorious life in Christ.

Prov. 16:32 *He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and **he that ruleth his spirit** than he that taketh a city.*



Prov. 25:28 He that *hath* **no rule over his own spirit** *is like* a city that is broken down, and without walls.

❖ Temperance is a personal discipline that engages spiritual warfare.

Rom. 13:14 But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and **make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.**

1 Pet. 2:11 Dearly beloved, I beseech *you* as strangers and pilgrims, **abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;**

❖ Temperance is a daily requirement:

1 Cor. 15:31 “...**I die daily.**”

❖ Temperance is a perpetual battle within a believer's heart.



Rom. 7:14 For we know that the law is spiritual: but **I am carnal,** sold under sin.

15 For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I.

16 If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that *it is* good.

17 Now then it is no more I that do it, but **sin that dwelleth in me.**

18 For I know that in me (that is, **in my flesh,**) **dwelleth no good thing:** for to will is present with me; but *how* to perform that which is good I find not.

19 For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do.

20 Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but **sin that dwelleth in me.**



21 I find then a law, that, when I would do good, **evil is present with me.**

22 For I delight in the law of God **after the inward man:**

23 But I see another law in my members, **warring against the law of my mind**, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.

24 **O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me** from the body of this death?

25 **I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord.** So then **with the mind** I myself serve the law of God; but **with the flesh** the law of sin.

❖ If the Apostle Paul was perplexed about such a spiritual challenge, shouldn't we be concerned?



❖ Temperance must include counteracting the flesh by walking in the Spirit.

Gal. 5:16 *This* I say then, **Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.**

17 For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: **so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.**

❖ Walking in the Spirit includes spiritual activities:

○ Contemplation:

Jn. 6:63 It is **the spirit that quickeneth**; the **flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.**



Psa. 119:9 **Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way?** by taking heed *thereto* according to thy word. ... 11 **Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.**

○ Communication:

Mt. 26:41 **Watch and pray**, that ye enter not into temptation: **the spirit indeed *is* willing, but the flesh *is* weak.**

1 Cor. 14:15 What is it then? **I will pray with the spirit**, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.



○ Concentration:

Eph. 5:17 Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord *is*.

18 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but **be filled with the Spirit;**

19 **Speaking to yourselves** in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody **in your heart to the Lord;**

20 **Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;**

21 **Submitting yourselves** one to another in the fear of God.





1. Searching, v. 17 – “...understanding what the will of the Lord is.”

2. Saturating, v. 18 – “...filled with the Spirit;”

3. Speaking, v. 19a – “Speaking to yourselves...”

4. Singing, v. 19b – “...singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;”

5. Sensing, v. 20 – “Giving thanks for all things...”

6. Submitting, v. 21 – “...yourselves one to another in the fear of God.”



(4) We must not only be in possession, but also have patience, 1:6b

**PATIENCE**, *noun* pa'shens. [Latin *patientia*, from *patior*, to suffer.]

1. The suffering of afflictions, pain, toil, calamity, provocation or other evil, **with a calm, unruffled temper; endurance without murmuring or fretfulness**. *patience* may spring from constitutional fortitude, from a kind of heroic pride, **or from Christian submission to the divine will**.

2. A calm temper which bears evils without murmuring or discontent.

3. The act or quality of waiting long for justice or expected good without discontent.

Have *patience* with me, and I will pay thee all. Matthew 18:26.

4. Perseverance; constancy in labor or exertion.

He learnt with *patience* and with meekness taught.

5. The quality of bearing offenses and injuries without anger or revenge. <http://webstersdictionary1828.com/Dictionary/patience>



**Original Word:** ὑπομονή

**Transliteration:** hypomoné

**Definition:** a remaining behind, a patient enduring

**Usage:** endurance, steadfastness, patient waiting for.

*hypomoné* (from *hypó*, "under" and *ménō*, "remain, endure") –  
**properly, remaining under, endurance; steadfastness, especially as God enables the believer to "remain (endure) under" the challenges He allots in life.**

<https://biblehub.com/greek/5281.htm>

❖ Patience is spiritual maturity manifested by endurance, an indication of genuine spirituality.

Luke 8:15 But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, **having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience.**



Luke 21:19 In your patience **possess ye your souls.**

❖ The awareness to control emotional challenges during difficult times is an addition to faith that produces spiritual maturity for endurance.

Heb. 12:1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset *us*, and **let us run with patience the race that is set before us,**

Jas. 1:3 Knowing *this*, that **the trying of your faith worketh patience.**

4 But **let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.**



## Conclusion

### The Legend of Cliff Young: The 61 Year Old Farmer Who Won the World's Toughest Race

Every year, Australia hosts 543.7-mile (875-kilometer) endurance racing from Sydney to Melbourne. It is considered among the world's most grueling ultra-marathons. The race takes five days to complete and is normally only attempted by world-class athletes who train specially for the event. These athletes are typically less than 30 years old and backed by large companies such as Nike.

In 1983, a man named Cliff Young showed up at the start of this race. Cliff was 61 years old and wore overalls and work boots. To everyone's shock, Cliff wasn't a spectator. He picked up his race number and joined the other runners. <https://elitefeet.com/the-legend-of-cliff-young>



<https://sealgrinderpt.com/blog/navy-seal-workout/what-can-we-learn-from>



Gal. 5:22 But **the fruit of the Spirit is** love, joy, peace,  
longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

23 Meekness, **temperance**: against such there is no  
law.

24 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh  
with the affections and lusts.

25 If we live in the Spirit, **let us also walk in the Spirit.**