**Fortified Against False Teachers**

*2 Peter 1*

**Introduction**

1. Peter begins his second epistle with a list of virtues one is to add to their faith.
   1. There is a dire need for growth when one becomes a Christian.
   2. There is a logical growth in the list contained in 2 Peter 1.
2. These virtues, if taken in light of the context of Peter’s addressing of the false teachers, provide a fortress for believers against said false teachers.
   1. If you add these things to your faith, when confronted by false teachers, you will be able to successfully combat them.
   2. If these things are lacking, there will not be success in contending for the faith.
3. Purpose In Writing
4. Remind the Audience
   1. **1:12** – Because they have partaken of the Divine nature, and can make their call and election to salvation sure by diligent growth.
   2. **3:1-2** – Remind them of the teaching of the apostles and prophets. (inspired word of God.)
5. Warning against false teachers.
   1. **2:1** – They will be among you, bringing in destructive doctrines.
   2. **2:1; 3:3-4** – Specifically mentioning the denying of Christ, and denying the second coming of Christ.
6. Punishment of false teachers, and those who follow them.
   1. **2:3** – There punishment will come. (as it has come on the unrighteous in the past – cf. **2:4-11**).
   2. **Those who follow the false teachers will be punished in like manner**.
7. The Day of the Lord is coming!
   1. **3:10-13** – Because He is coming, and we don’t know when, we must be prepared at all times!
   2. **3:17-18** – Because we know Christ is coming, and will punish the wicked, **we must grow, and not be swayed by false teachers!** 🡪
8. Divine Nature
9. Through knowledge. (*epignōsis* – exact or full knowledge, discernment, recognition**; a greater participation by the "knower" in the object "known," thus more powerfully influencing him.**)(Vine) (It is not simply an intellectual knowledge, but an experiential knowledge.)
   1. Grace and peace multiplied (**cf. 1:2)**
   2. All things that pertain to life and godliness (**cf. 1:3**)
10. Called by glory and virtue (Glory of God in Christ; virtuous life, moral excellence/courage – this attracts the honest heart to obedience, and attaining of salvation.)
    1. Given promises (**cf. 1:4**) – things pertaining to salvation.
    2. Partake of the divine nature **(cf. 1:4**) – through the promises.
       1. We can partake of this nature because God promises we can.
       2. This occurs initially when we escape the corruption in the world. (*Baptism – we become children of God – we are born of Him, thus have the same nature.*)
       3. **But this is a nature we grow in. Being able to partake of such does not motivate slothfulness, but diligent growth.**
          1. God gave us this nature, and we owe Him effort in service to Him!
          2. (**1:9**) – this growth should be pursued because of the forgiveness we have been given. (**diligence – earnest desire; eagerness – to grow**).
11. Add to your faith… (*These virtues are connected, and presented as a logical progression. All are equally needed and important. All are dependent on each other in one way or another.*)
12. To faith virtue.
    1. **Virtue – properly, manliness (valor), i.e. excellence; moral excellence, i.e. moral courage**.
    2. To act on our faith, and maintain it in all conflict, takes courage. (Jesus exemplified this – **v. 3**). (*Also it is a goal set up to attain*.)
    3. ***1 Corinthians 16:13 “Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong.”*** – bravery is necessary for Christians to remain faithful.
    4. **In context** – false teachers must be confronted and combatted. There will be consequences to such, we must be brave.
13. To virtue knowledge.
    1. **Knowledge – *gnosis* – knowing; general intelligence.**
    2. Knowledge is necessary in order to understand what to be courageous about. (*Just because a person is brave in standing up for their faith does not make their faith right.* ***Jeremiah 10:23 “O Lord, I know the way of man is not in himself; It is not in man who walks to direct his own steps.”***)
    3. ***Ephesians 5:17 “Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.”*** – We must know God’s will in order to do it, and stand up for it.
    4. **In context** – the only way to combat false doctrine, as well as not being deceived by it, is to know the truth!
14. To knowledge self-control.
    1. **Self-control – temperance; control of self.**
    2. As we saw with *epignosis*, simply knowing is not enough. We must be able to discipline ourselves into subjection under that which we know.
    3. ***Galatians 5:16-17 “I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.”*** – There are things we are going to be tempted to engage in, but we must control ourselves!
    4. **In Context** – It takes control of self not to compromise with false teachers, or follow their ways.
15. To self-control perseverance.
    1. **Perseverance – steadfastness, constancy, endurance**
    2. Self-control is not a one-time expectation, but a continual expectation. There must be willingness and ability to continue acting faithfully.
    3. ***James 1:2-3 “My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.”*** – as we are tested, and exercise self-control, our patience (endurance) grows. This is necessary. Reward only comes to those who endure. (***James 5:11 “Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end intended by the Lord—that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful.”***)
    4. **In Context** – dealing with false doctrine and teachers takes time, and we should be consistent. We must be constant in our dealing with them.
16. To perseverance godliness.
    1. **Godliness – piety; reverence or respect toward God; Godward attitude.**
    2. To achieve endurance it is necessary to always have God in our thoughts. (Live as if everything done is in His sight – which it is!) (Do all to please Him.)
    3. ***Colossians 3:17 “And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”*** – Doing all and saying all that is subject to Christ’s authority is godliness.
    4. **In Context** – Dealing with false doctrine/teachers can only be successful if we’re doing so to please God. (When acting godly, one does not worry about pleasing men.)
17. To godliness brotherly kindness.
    1. **Brotherly kindness – fraternal affection; brotherly love.**
    2. When we are striving so hard to live godly lives we should have an affection for those doing the same.
    3. **1 Peter 1:22-23** – we have an affection for those who have obtained like precious faith through the gospel. **(1 John 4:11, 20** – we can’t please God without this.)
    4. **In context** – We cannot expect to combat those against us if we are not united in love.
18. To brotherly kindness love.
    1. **Love – agape – charity; benevolence (Acting love.)**
    2. It is not enough to have an affection for our brethren, we must DO things for them. (*Reprove, rebuke, exhort.)*
    3. **1 John 3:16** – This love goes above and beyond in action as Jesus’ love did.
    4. **In context** – there will be some who follow and want to follow false doctrine **(cf. 2:2**). Love does not let them do what they want so as to not hurt their feelings, it sacrifices self in service to them. (Love’s object is the soul. It doesn’t matter if the flesh is hurt if the soul is saved.)
    5. **GOD IS LOVE** – **DIVINE NATURE** – This is our goal. Thus, the greatest commandment.
19. If you do these things? – **1:8-11**

**Conclusion**

1. It is not for Christians to remain where they are, stagnant.
2. We must naturally desire growth following our obedience to the gospel.
3. The only way for us to remain faithful, and therefore get to heaven, is to add to our faith, and grow.