2nd Peter

Lesson 5: Divine Characteristics — The Inverse

What is left when each characteristic is subtracted

And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;
And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;
And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.

2 Peter 1:5-7

Participating in the Divine Nature (1:1-10)

2 Peter 1:1-4

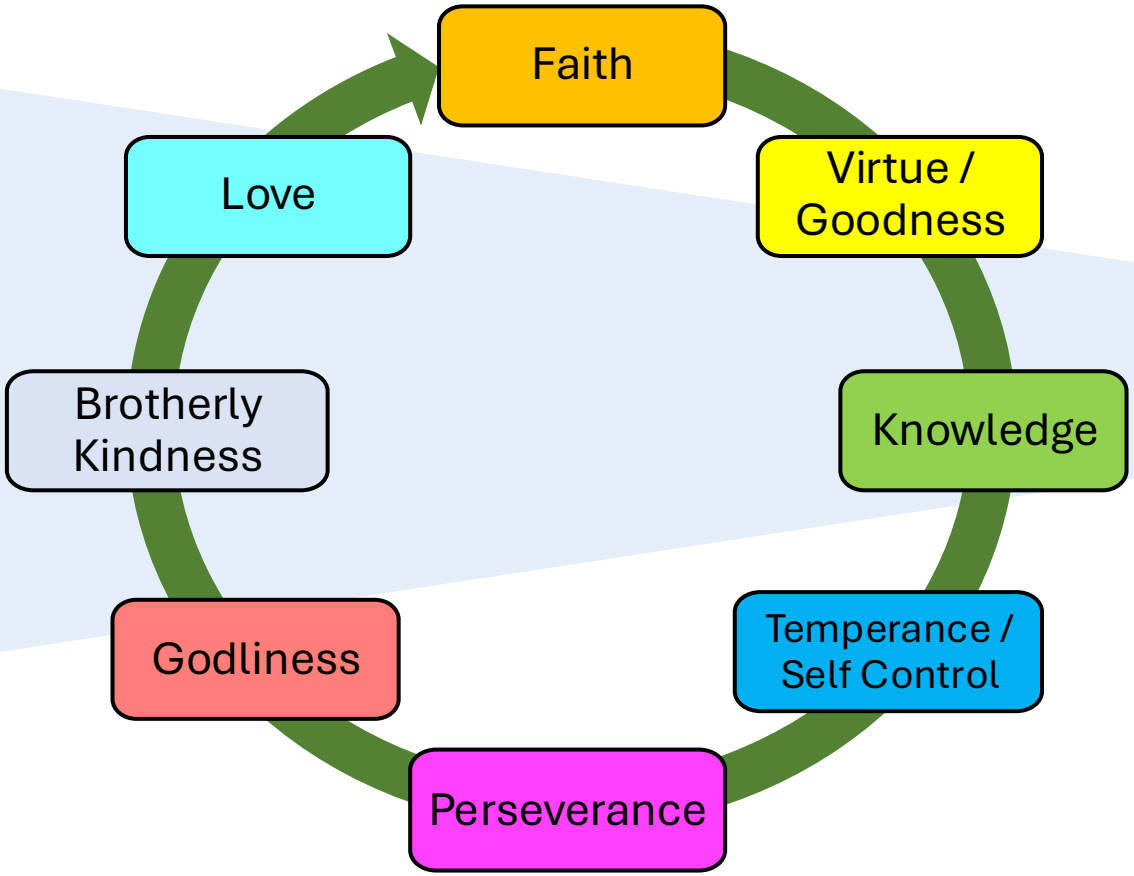
It starts with receiving Faith in Jesus Christ our Savior

Obtain Knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord

God's Divine Power provides everything we need to live godly

He promised that we can participate in the Divine Nature

2 Peter 1:5-7



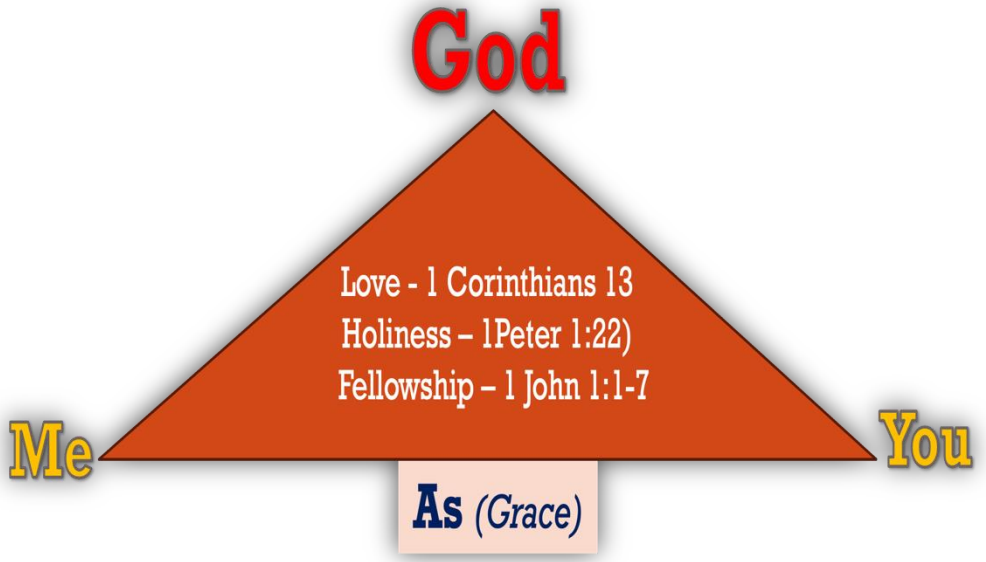
2 Peter 1:8-10

Results:
Growing these qualities keep us from becoming **Ineffective** and **Unproductive**

The Divine Nature – Diligence (2 Peter 1:4)

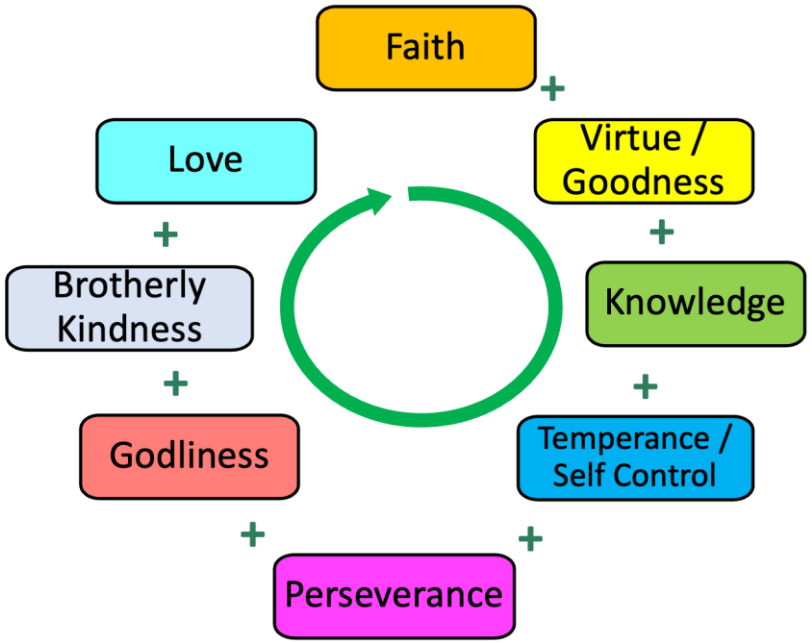
- **For the believer, diligence means quickly obeying what the Lord reveals is His priority**
  - Diligence elevates the <u>better</u> over the <u>good</u>
  - … he <u>more important</u> over the <u>important</u>
  - … and does so with earnest swiftness (intensity)
- **Diligence brings Love into the proper perspective**
  - Love God "more than" Me and Me "as" You
- **Diligence outpaces the negative stigmas we place on ourself** *(Exodus 4:10-16)*
  - *"I can't / I am not / Not my calling / Not my gift/etc."*

Love God with all thy Heart, Soul, Mind and Strength
Love your Neighbor as Thyself
Duet 6:5 | Mark 12:29-31 | Matt 22:37



The Chain As Peter Builds It (2 Peter 1:5-7)

Faith + Virtue + Knowledge + Temperance + Patience + Godliness + Brotherly Kindness + Charity



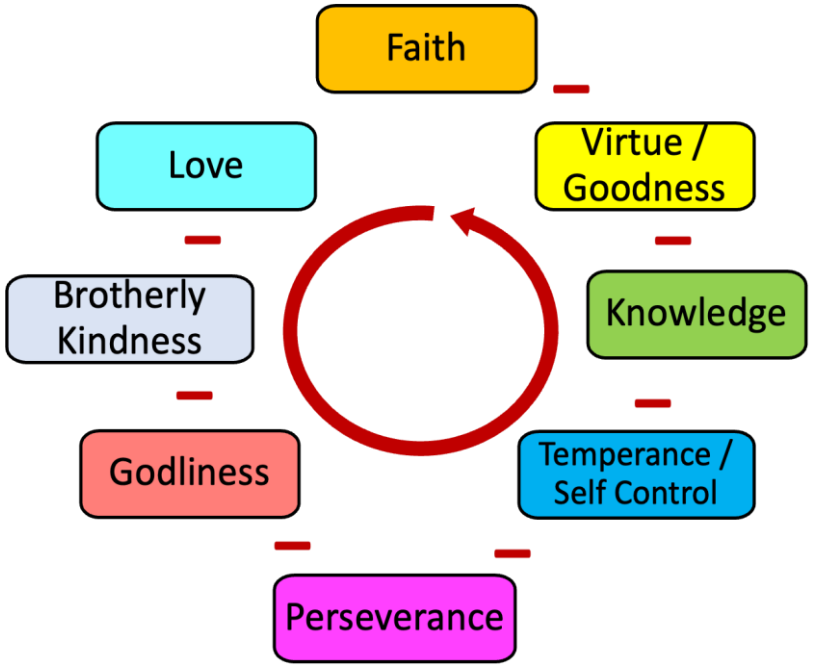
These Spiritual Characteristics are a chain not a list.

- Pull any single link and everything after it comes down with it.
- Knowledge without temperance does not merely stall … It takes patience, godliness, kindness and charity down the line behind it, because each one was resting on the last.

Addition takes all diligence… Subtraction only takes complacency.

The Chain As We Often Live it (2 Peter 1:5-7)

Charity – Brotherly Kindness – Godliness – Patience – Temperance – Knowledge – Virtue – **Faith**



Subtraction is almost never a decision.

Nobody wakes up in the morning and removes patience or knowledge from his life.

We simply stop adding it — and in a season it is gone, and what is left is the subject of this lesson.

Peter Does the Subtraction First (2 Peter 1:8-9)

"For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be **barren** nor **unfruitful** in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins."

WHAT "MORAL LACK" PRODUCES

1. Blindness

Unable to see the thing at all — including the lack itself, which is why no one who is subtracting ever reports it.

2. Cannot see afar off

In the Greek is **Nearsighted**. We still sees what is close: this week, this paycheck, this grievance. Eternity has gone soft at the edges.

3. Forgot we were Purged

The last thing to go is the memory of the cross. A person can lose the whole chain and keep the vocabulary. What we loses is the wonder that we were ever cleansed.

The Seven Pairs At a Glance (2 Peter 1:5-7)

THE CHAIN	SUBTRACT, AND	ADD, AND
Faith · Virtue	*− A creed with no courage in it*	*+ An altar the king paid for*
Virtue · Knowledge	*− Zeal aimed at the wrong thing*	*+ Zeal that finally reaches Jerusalem*
Knowledge · Temperance	*− A teacher his own life contradicts*	*+ A life that preaches the same sermon*
Temperance · Patience	*− Discipline with a short shelf life*	*+ Discipline that is still there at eighty-five*
Patience · Godliness	*− Endurance with the reverence gone out of it*	*+ Endurance that is still facing God*
Godliness · Brotherly Kindness	*− Piety with no door in it*	*+ Reverence that went looking for somebody*
Brotherly Kindness · Charity	*− A circle with a membership requirement*	*+ A circle wide enough for Saul of Tarsus*

Seven weeks: one pair per session — the subtraction, then the narrative that answers it. One session: work pairs 01, 03, 05 and 07 and close on Stephen.

2nd Peter

Faith without Virtue

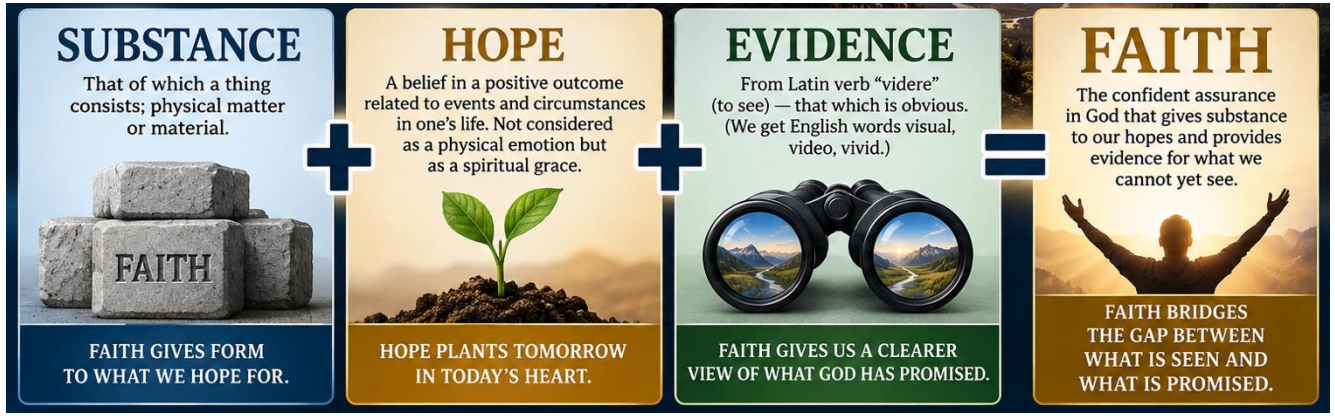
A creed with no courage in it

And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;
And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;
And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.

2 Peter 1:5-7

What is faith?

- **Faith** – Come from Greek word “pistis” meaning Forensic Proof
- **Hebrews 11:1 -** Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.
  - **Substance** - A thing consists of physical matter or material
  - **Hope** - A belief in a positive outcome related to events and circumstances in one's life. Not considered as a physical emotion but as a spiritual grace
  - **Evidence** – From Latin verb “videre” to see or that which is obvious. *(we get english words visual, video, vivid)*



But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that ***diligently*** seek him. **Hebrews 11:6**

Faith + Virtue — The Threshing Floor (2 Samuel 24:18-25)

> *"Neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the LORD my God of that which doth cost me nothing."* **2 Samuel 24:24**

Faith

(pistis) - Forensic Proof

+ Virtue

(aretē)

the valor that makes a thing do what it was made to do

EQUALS

An altar the king paid for

Question

Not what do I believe — what have I actually paid for?

THE OFFER

Araunah offers the king everything free — the floor, the oxen, the threshing instruments for wood. And take seriously how ***correct*** that altar would have been: right site, chosen by God; right command, delivered by Gad; right sacrifice. Everything about it was orthodox except the price.

WHY IT COUNTS

It happens under pressure, not in a quiet hour — 70,000 are dead and the angel's hand is stretched over Jerusalem. The cheap road is offered by a friend, which is what makes it hard to see. And the sum is small: fifty shekels. The point was never the size of the cost, but that there was one. Virtue is measured by whether belief ever reaches your hand.

WHERE IT LEADS

Solomon's temple is built on that same floor **(2 Chronicles 3:1)**. Everything Israel would ever offer was offered on ground somebody had paid for.

Faith – Virtue (2 Peter 1:5)

Faith

(pistis) - Forensic Proof

– Virtue

(aretē)

moral excellence; the valor that makes a thing do what it was made to do

EQUALS

A creed with no courage in it

Question

What have I believed for twenty years that has never once cost me anything?

WHAT REMAINS

What is left is assent. Doctrine that is airtight and has never once been asked to cost anything. This is not unbelief — it is belief with nothing downstream of it, a conviction that has never had to stand up in a room where standing up was expensive.

THE WITNESSES

"The devils also believe, and tremble… faith without works is dead"
James 2:19-20

"Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof"
2 Timothy 3:5

THE PORTRAIT

Israel at Kadesh-barnea. Not one of the twelve spies doubted that God existed; ten of them doubted Him in the presence of giants. They had faith enough to survey the land and not enough valor to take it — and it cost that generation forty years. **(Numbers 13-14)**

2nd Peter

Virtue without Knowledge

Zeal aimed at the wrong thing

And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;
And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;
And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.

2 Peter 1:5-7

Virtue without Knowledge

Zeal aimed at the wrong thing

(2 Peter 1:5-7)

The Characteristics Chain As Peter Builds It

Faith + Virtue + Knowledge + Temperance + Patience + Godliness + Brotherly Kindness + Charity

The Characteristics Chain As We Live It

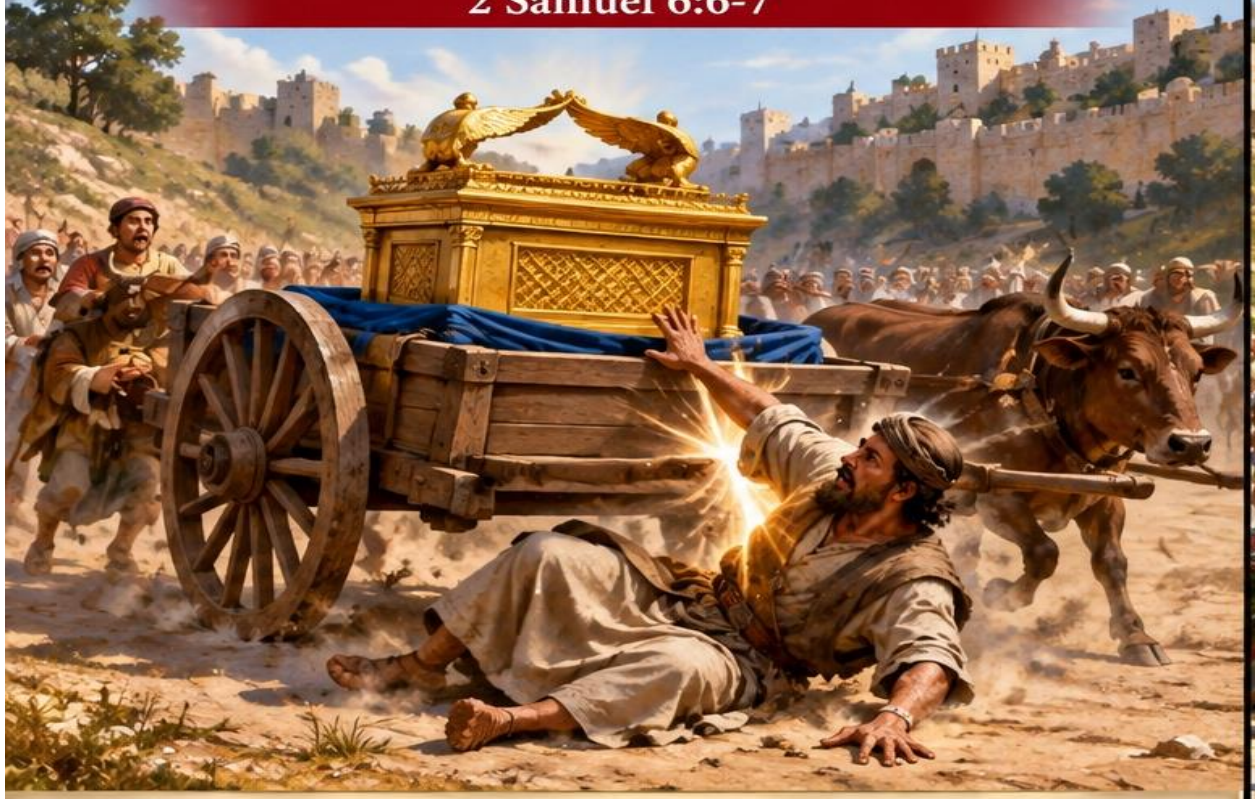
Faith – Virtue – Knowledge – Temperance – Patience – Godliness – Brotherly Kindness – Charity

Addition takes all diligence… Subtraction only takes time

THE WRONG WAY

The Ark on a Cart

2 Samuel 6:6-7



And when they came to Nachon's threshing floor,
Uzzah put forth his hand to the ark of God,
and took hold of it; for the oxen shook it.

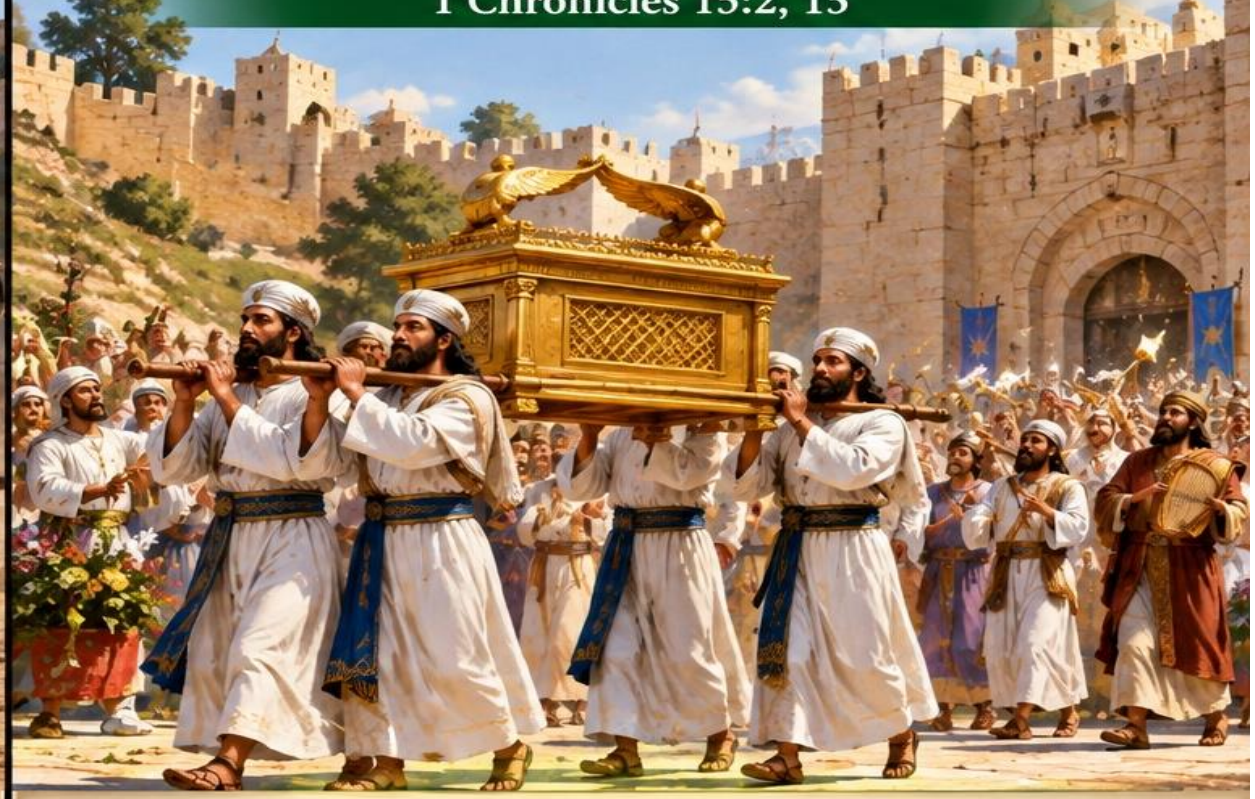
**And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Uzzah;
and God smote him there for his error;
and he died there by the ark of God.**

2 Samuel 6:6-7 (KJV)

THE PROPER WAY

The Levites Carry the Ark

1 Chronicles 15:2, 15



Then David said, **None ought to carry the ark of God
but the Levites:** for them the LORD hath chosen
to carry the ark of God, and to minister unto him for ever.

1 Chronicles 15:2 (KJV)

And the Levites bare the ark of God upon their shoulders
with the staves thereon, **as Moses commanded
according to the word of the LORD.**

1 Chronicles 15:15 (KJV)

Virtue – Knowledge: The Ark, Carried Wrong (2 Samuel 6:6-7)

Virtue

(aretē) the valor that makes a thing do what it was made to do

– Knowledge

(gnōsis) - discerning, practical knowing — not merely knowing the what, but knowing the how

EQUALS

Zeal aimed at the wrong thing

Question

Where am I certain I am right about something I have never actually studied?

WHAT REMAINS

What is left is sincerity that does damage — and the sincerity is exactly what makes it dangerous. This man is not a hypocrite. He is in earnest, and he is in earnest about the wrong target, or about the right target by a forbidden method.

THE WITNESSES

"They have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge"
Romans 10:2

"That the soul be without knowledge, it is not good"
Proverbs 19:2

THE PORTRAIT

Uzza, meaning well, puts out his hand to steady the ark and dies for it — the intent protective, the method forbidden.
(2 Samuel 6:6-7; 1 Chronicles 13)

However, David takes responsibility and recalls the knowledgeable way to transport the Ark.
(1 Chronicles 15)

Virtue + Knowledge: The Ark, Carried Right (1 Chronicles 15)

> ***"Because ye did it not at the first, the LORD our God made a breach upon us, for that we sought him not after the due order."***
> **1 Chronicles 15:13**

Virtue

(aretē) the valor that makes a thing do what it was made to do

\+ **Knowledge**

(gnōsis) - not merely knowing that, but knowing how

EQUALS

Zeal that finally reaches Jerusalem

Question

What am I doing zealously that I have never gone back and checked — and where did I get the method?

THE SAME EVENT, TWICE

Same king, same ark, same enthusiasm — three months apart. Scripture rarely hands you a controlled experiment; here it does. Between the corpse at Perez-uzza and the celebration in Jerusalem, David's zeal did not increase. His knowledge did.

WHERE THE CART CAME FROM

A new cart drawn by oxen was the **Philistines'** method **(1 Samuel 6:7)** — devised by men who did not know God. And **Numbers 7:9** gave wagons to every Levite family except the sons of Kohath, whose service "was that they should bear upon their shoulders." The cart was the one method specifically withheld. It was in the Book the whole time, and nobody looked.

AFTER THE DUE ORDER

The phrase means an order existed and was not consulted. Knowledge here is not cleverness — it is going back and reading what was already written. The Levites bore it on their shoulders, *as Moses commanded*, and God helped them.

2nd Peter

Knowledge without Temperance

A teacher his own life contradicts

And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;
And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;
And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.

2 Peter 1:5-7

The Characteristics Chain As Peter Builds It (2 Peter 1:5-7)

Faith + Virtue + Knowledge + Temperance + Patience + Godliness + Brotherly Kindness + Charity

The Characteristics Chain As We Live It (2 Peter 1:5-7)

Faith – Virtue – Knowledge – Temperance – Patience – Godliness – Brotherly Kindness – Charity

Addition takes all diligence… Subtraction only takes time

KNOWLEDGE WITHOUT TEMPERANCE

KNOWLEDGE

TEMPERANCE

can lead to compromise and loss,
while temperance keeps us faithful to God.





Knowledge + Temperance — The Coat Left Behind (Genesis 39)

"How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?" **Genesis 39:9**

Knowledge

(gnōsis) discerning, practical knowing — not merely knowing the what , but knowing the how

+ Temperance

(enkrateia) - self-mastery; holding the reins on your own appetite

EQUALS

A life that preaches the same sermon

Question

What do I know to be true that my appetite has quietly overlooked?

THE SAME SUBJECT, THE OTHER MAN

Solomon knew more about appetite than any man alive and lost his heart to it anyway. Joseph was a slave with no throne and no library, holding one clause of theology — this would be sin against God — and it held. Knowledge is measured by how much of it survives contact with the appetite.

A CAMPAIGN, NOT A MOMENT

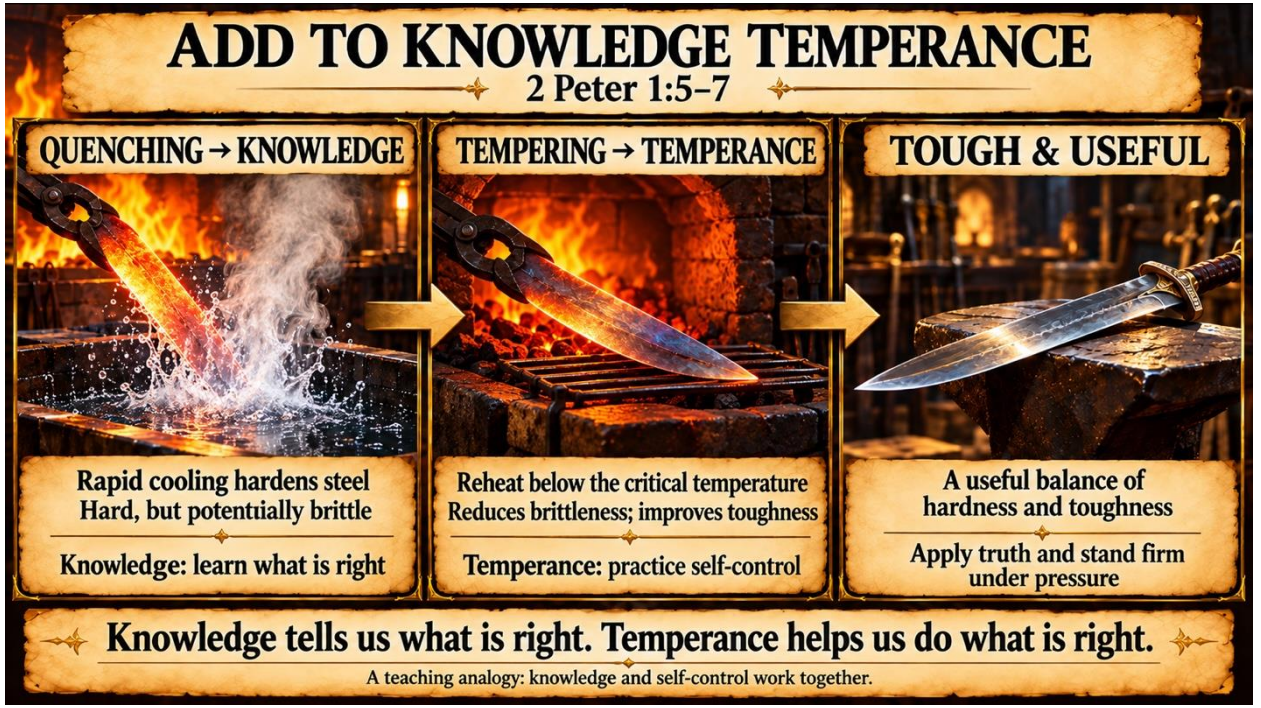
She spake to Joseph *day by day*, and he would not hearken to lie by her, or to be with her **(39:10)**. Temperance is rarely one heroic refusal. It is the same refusal, repeated, with no audience and no credit, until the pressure gives up or the man does.

IT COST HIM THE HOUSE

He left the garment in her hand and fled — and went to prison for it. Self-control is not the safe road. Paul names the stake exactly: I keep under my body, lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway **(1 Corinthians 9:27)**.

Quenching and Tempering (1 Peter 1:6-7)

- **Quenching** is a rapid cooling process that involves heating a metal to a specific temperature and then rapidly cooling it. *(Makes it hard but brittle)*
- **Tempering** is a heat treatment process that follows quenching and involves reheating the quenched material to a specific temperature and then cooling it at a controlled rate. *(Improves Ductility)*



- **Benefits of Tempering**
  - **Improved Ductility**: Allows the metal to deform without breaking
  - **Increased Toughness**: Reduces brittleness, making the material less likely to fracture under stress.
  - **Enhanced Wear Resistance**: Tempered steel can withstand greater wear and tear, making it suitable for tools and structural components.

Knowledge – Temperance (2 Peter 1:6)

Knowledge

(gnōsis) discerning, practical knowing — not merely knowing that, but knowing how

– Temperance

(enkrateia) - self-control; holding the reins on your own appetite

EQUALS

A teacher whose own life is a contradiction

Question

Name one thing you know to be true but are not doing.

WHAT REMAINS

What is left is information that inflates instead of forming.

- Truth received and not obeyed does not stay neutral — it hardens.
- The gap between what a person **knows** and what he **does** not stay a gap. Over time it becomes his character.

THE WITNESSES

"Knowledge puffeth up, but charity edifieth" **1 Corinthians 8:1**

"Thou therefore which teachest another, teachest thou not thyself?" **Romans 2:21**

THE PORTRAIT

Solomon. No man in Scripture ever knew more or restrained himself less. He wrote the manual on appetite and then failed the exam he set: "his wives turned away his heart." **(1 Kings 11:4)**

2nd Peter

Temperance without Patience

Discipline with a short shelf life

Caleb and Peter

And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;
And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;
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2 Peter 1:5-7

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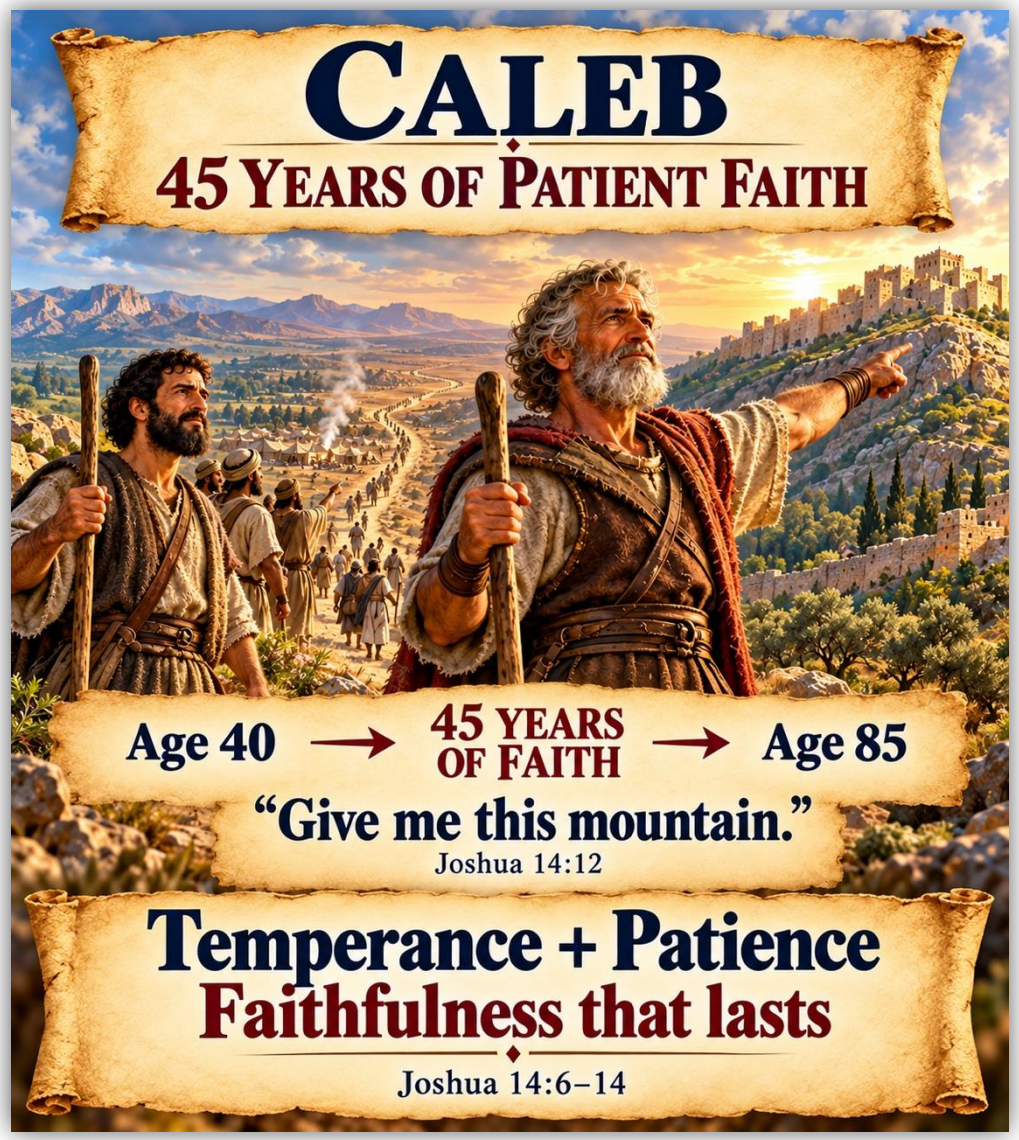
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The Characteristics Chain As We Live It (2 Peter 1:5-7)

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Addition takes all diligence… Subtraction only takes time

Temperance + Patience — Give Me This Mountain (Joshua 14:6-14)



FORTY-FIVE YEARS HE DID NOT EARN

Caleb brought back the true report at Kadesh-barnea and was overruled by ten men. He then wandered forty-five years for a failure that was not his, watching a generation die for unbelief he never shared — and came out of it asking for the hardest ground in Canaan.

> "As yet I am as strong this day as I was in the day that Moses sent me."
> *Joshua 14:11-12*

THE APPETITE NEVER COOLED

Notice what did not happen. He did not become careful. At eighty-five he asks for the hill country where the Anakim are, the very giants that frightened the ten. Patience is not merely surviving the wait; it is arriving at the end of it still wanting the same thing.

COMPLETELY FOLLOW

Six times Scripture says Caleb *wholly followed the LORD*. That is a summary written across forty-five years, not a good week. Self-control that cannot last is only enthusiasm. *(Num 32:12, Duet. 1:36, Joshua 14:8-9; 14:9; 14:14)*

What would I still be doing for forty-five years if no one ever noticed?

Patience – Definitions and Characteristics

Definitions

- **Makrothumia** - The ability to endure difficult situations or people without reacting in anger; slow to anger; longsuffering
  "Patience with People".

- **Hypomonē** – The ability to remain faithful and strong under pressure. To endure life's trials with grace, hope and fortitude.
  "Patience in Trials".

Colossians 1:11	"Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all **patience** *[hypomonē]* and **longsuffering** *[makrothumia]* with joyfulness"
2 Timothy 3:10	"But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, **longsuffering** *[makrothumia],* charity, **patience** *[hypomonē]* "
James 5:7-11	Three times *[makrothumia]* — the farmer waiting for rain, the brethren not grudging Then in v. 11, "ye have heard of the **patience** of Job," and that one is [hypomonē]

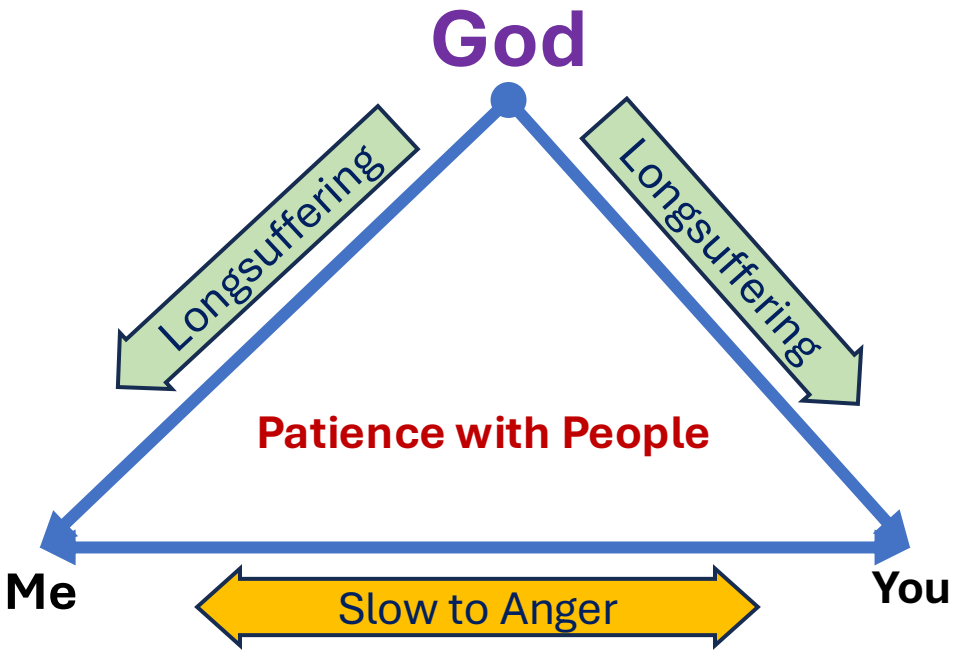
The Source of a Lack of Patience

- **DNA/Inherited –** *"I was Made this way"*
- **Environmental –** *"I learned it from family, peers or society"*
- **Self-Inflicted –** *"I want to be this way"*

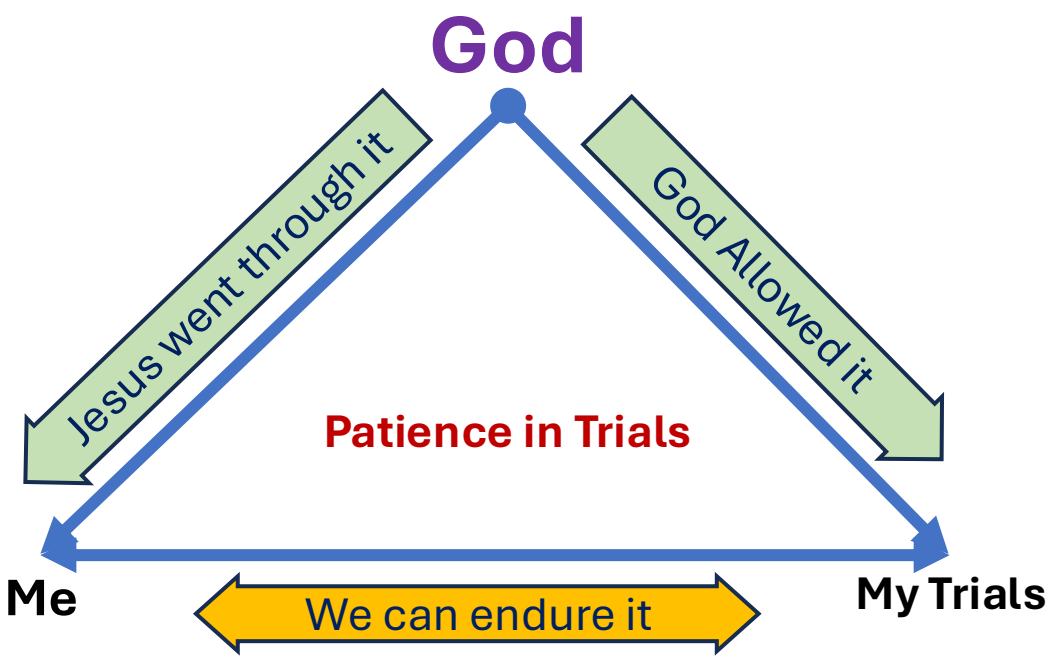
The Solution for a lack of Patience – Transformation by a Renewed Mind *(Roman 12:2)*

- **The Catalyst for Transfomation –** *The Word of God (Genesis 1:1, John 1:1)*
- *We try to conform the Word to fit our Life – Instead of Transforming our Life to conform to the Word of God*

The Catalyst for Transformation – The Word of God



God's Longsuffering	Our Longsuffering
Exodus 34:6	2 Corinthians 6:6
Numbers 14:18	Galatians 5:22
Psalm 86:15	Ephesians 4:2
Romans 2:4	Colossians 1:11
Romans 9:22	Colossians 3:12
1 Tim 1:16	
2 Peter 3:9-15	



Jesus' Endurance	Our Endurance
Romans 15:5	Luke 8:15
2 Thessalonians 3:5	Luke 21:19
Hebrews 12:2-3	Romans 2:7
Revelation 1:9	Romans 8:25
Revelation 3:10	Hebrews 10:36
Revelation 14:12	Hebrews 12:1

Temperance – Patience (2 Peter 1:6)

Discipline with a short shelf life



WHAT REMAINS

- What is left is a sprint that never becomes a walk.
- Self-control is cheap for a season; anyone can be temperate in January.
- Patience is the capacity to still be doing it in the eleventh month, when the novelty is gone, nobody is watching, and no one has thanked you for it once.

THE WITNESSES

"Which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away" **Luke 8:13**

"Ye did run well; who did hinder you?" **Galatians 5:7**

THE PORTRAIT

- Peter had self-control enough to draw a sword against an armed detachment in the garden.
- Six hours later he could not hold up under the questioning of a servant girl at a fire.
- **Courage is a moment; patience is a season** — and it was the season that broke him. **(John 18:10, 17-27)**

What did I start for God that I have quietly stopped, without ever deciding to?

2nd Peter

Patience without Godliness

Endurance without Reverence

Job and the Prodigal Son's Brother

And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;
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2 Peter 1:5-7

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The Characteristics Chain As We Live It (2 Peter 1:5-7)

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Addition takes all diligence… Subtraction only takes time

Patience + Godliness: *Endurance that is God-facing* (Job 1:20-22, 13:14-16)

Godliness: *(eusebeia) Reverence; a whole life turned Godward*



> ***"Then Job arose and rent his mantle… and fell down upon the ground, and worshipped."*** **Job 1:20**

THE VERB *(Worship)* IS THE POINT

In one afternoon, Job loses the oxen, the sheep, the camels, the servants and all ten children. He tears his robe and shaves his head — real grief. Then the text says he fell down upon the ground and worshipped. Endurance was available. Worship is what he chose.

JOB ARGUES, BUT NEVER TURNS AWAY

Godliness here is not silence. Job protests for thirty chapters and demands an answer. But every complaint is addressed to God rather than about Him. *"Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him: but I will maintain mine own ways before him. He also shall be my salvation: for a hypocrite shall not come before him." (Job 13:14-16)*

"Yet I Will Rejoice"

Habakkuk states it as a decision: although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines… *yet I will rejoice in the LORD* (3:17-18). That ***yet*** is the whole addition.

When the load is heaviest, am I turning toward him — or only holding on?

Patience – Godliness: *Endurance without Reverence* (Luke 15:25-32)

A flawless endurance record with no love



WHAT REMAINS

What is left is gritted teeth. A man can carry the load for years after he has stopped loving the One he is carrying it for. This is the hardest subtraction to detect, because from the outside endurance and godliness are identical — *same attendance, same service, same patience!* From the inside, one of them is worship and the other one is a wall.

THE WITNESSES

"Thou hast borne, and hast patience… nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love" **Revelation 2:2-4**

"This people draw near me with their mouth… but have removed their heart far from me" **Isaiah 29:13**

THE PORTRAIT

The elder brother, standing out in the field keeping the accounts: "These many years do I serve thee, neither transgressed I at any time thy commandment." A flawless endurance record with not one line of affection in it — and it is spoken from outside the house, at a party thrown for somebody else. **(Luke 15:29)**

Am I enduring toward God, or have I just been enduring?

2nd Peter

Godliness without Brotherly Kindness

Piety with no door in it

And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;
And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;
And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.

2 Peter 1:5-7

Godliness + Brotherly Kindness — Is There Yet Any Left? (2 Samuel 9)

> *"Is there yet any that is left of the house of Saul, that I may shew him the kindness of God?"* **2 Samuel 9:1**

Godliness

(eusebeia) - reverence; a whole life turned Godward

+ Brotherly Kindness

(philadelphia) - the affection of a family; brothers who belong to one another

EQUALS

Reverence that went looking for somebody

ASK THE CLASS

Who would I have to go looking for? Brotherly kindness is rarely standing in front of you.

THE PHRASE NAMES THE COMPOUND

David does not call it kindness. He calls it ***the kindness of God*** — both halves of the addition in one clause. Reverence toward God is the source; kindness is the form it takes when it reaches a man. Peter asks for the same two words in the same order.

HE WENT LOOKING

The priest and the Levite had a man in front of them and crossed the road. David had no man in front of him and went to find one — asking after a rival house, for the sake of a dead friend. A door that only opens when something is dumped on the threshold is not really a door.

THE ONE HE FOUND

Mephibosheth is lame on both feet, heir of the house that hunted David, and calls himself a dead dog. He could return nothing. He ate at the king's table continually, as one of the king's sons. Kindness that expects a return is a transaction.

Godliness – Brotherly Kindness (2 Peter 1:7)

Godliness

(eusebeia) - reverence; a whole life turned Godward

– Brotherly Kindness

(philadelphia) - the affection of a family; brothers who belong to one another

EQUALS

Piety with no door in it

Question

Who in this congregation is worse off for having been near me?

WHAT REMAINS

What is left is devotion held vertically and never released horizontally. The prayers are real, the reverence is real, and none of it ever turns sideways toward a person. This is the one form of godliness that Scripture flatly refuses to accept as godliness at all — not weak, not immature: false.

THE WITNESSES

"If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar" **1 John 4:20**

"Pure religion and undefiled… is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction" **James 1:27**

THE PORTRAIT

The priest and the Levite on the Jericho road. Both were coming from or going to the service of God, both of them saw the man, and both of them "passed by on the other side." Their religion was entirely intact. It simply had no door in it that opened toward a ditch. **(Luke 10:31-32)**

2nd Peter

Brotherly Kindness without Charity

A circle with a membership requirement

And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;
And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;
And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.

2 Peter 1:5-7

Brotherly Kindness + Charity — The Prayer That Answered Itself (Acts 7:54-60)

> *"Lord, lay not this sin to their charge."* **Acts 7:60**

Brotherly Kindness

(philadelphia) - the affection of a family; brothers who belong to one another

+ Charity

(agapē) - the love that gives itself to someone who has no claim on it

EQUALS

A circle wide enough for Saul of Tarsus

ASK THE CLASS

Who is furthest outside my circle — and could I pray for him by name today?

AT THE FURTHEST POSSIBLE DISTANCE

Philadelphia would have had Stephen praying for the church. Agapē has him praying for the men throwing the stones, while they are throwing them. Charity is not warmth extended a little further out; it is love aimed at someone with no claim on it, who is at that moment an enemy.

THE MAN HOLDING THE COATS

Luke names the young man at whose feet the witnesses laid down their clothes: **Saul**. Stephen's last prayer was prayed over the head of the man consenting to his death — and that man became the apostle who spent his life refusing to let the circle close.

WHY CHARITY IS LAST

Peter withdrew from the Gentile table at Antioch; the man who withstood him to the face was the answer to a dying man's prayer. Charity sits at the top of Peter's chain because it is the only link that adds people who were never inside the circle at all.

Brotherly Kindness – Charity (2 Peter 1:7)

Brotherly Kindness

(philadelphia) - the affection of a family; brothers who belong to one another

– Charity

(agapē) - the love that gives itself to someone who has no claim on it

EQUALS

A social circle with a membership requirement

Question

Who is outside my circle right now, and what exactly am I gaining by keeping them there?

WHAT REMAINS

What is left is genuine warmth with a boundary drawn around it. Philadelphia is love for the brother; agapē is the love that makes a brother out of a stranger. Subtract it and the church does not go cold — it stays warm, and closes. That is far harder to see from the inside, because it still feels like love. It is love. It has just been issued to a list.

THE WITNESSES

"If ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same?" **Matthew 5:46-47**

"Love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again" **Luke 6:35**

THE PORTRAIT

Peter at Antioch. The man writing this verse is the same man Paul "withstood to the face" for getting up from the Gentile table when certain men came down from James. Peter had philadelphia in abundance — for his own kind. He is not theorizing in verse 7. He is naming the exact thing that was once subtracted from him, in public, by name. **(Galatians 2:11-13)**

Backup Slides

The Seven Questions to Take Home

Answer them in order. The first one you cannot answer well is the lowest missing link.

1 Faith – Virtue

What have I believed for twenty years that has never once cost me anything?

2 Virtue – Knowledge

Where am I certain I am right about something I have never actually studied?

3 Knowledge – Temperance

Name one thing I know to be true and am not doing. That single item is the whole subtraction.

4 Temperance – Patience

What did I start for God that I have quietly stopped, without ever deciding to?

5 Patience – Godliness

Am I enduring toward God, or have I just been enduring?

6 Godliness – Brotherly Kindness

Who in this congregation is worse off for having been near me?

7 Brotherly Kindness – Charity

Who is outside my circle right now, and what exactly am I gaining by keeping them there?

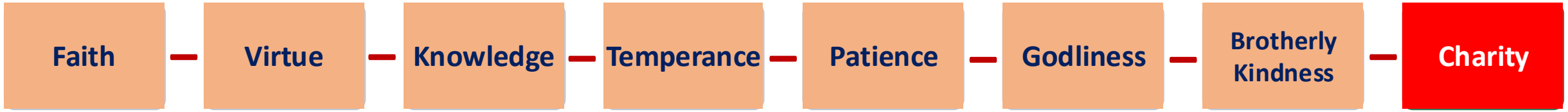
The Chain As Peter Builds It (2 Peter 1:5-7)

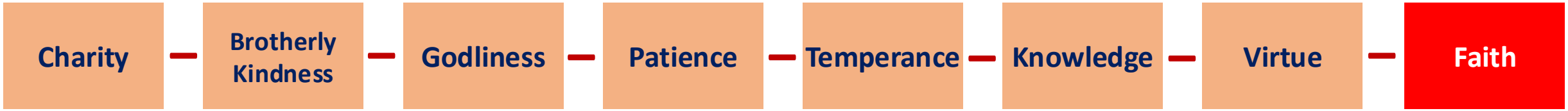


Which is why the subtraction is almost never a decision. Nobody wakes up in the morning and removes patience from his life. He simply stops paying for it — and in a season it is gone, and what is left is the subject of this lesson.

Note also: **diligence** *is attached to the addition. Nothing at all is attached to the subtraction.*

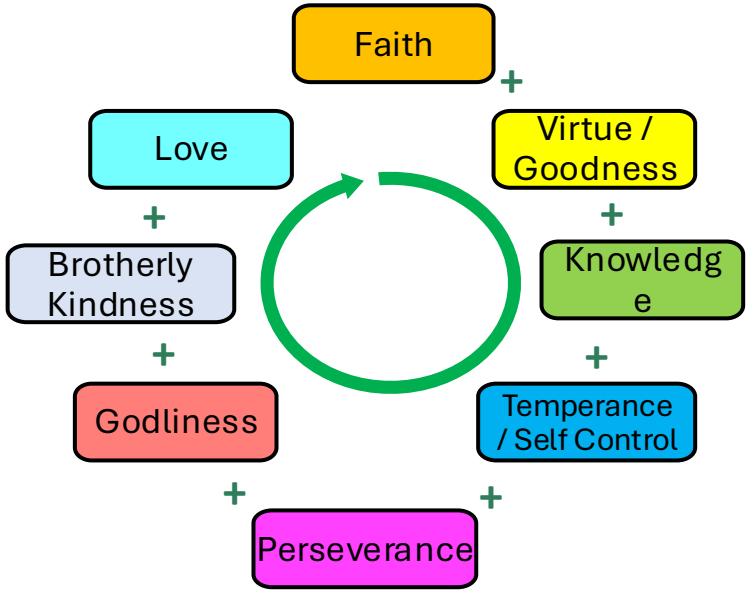
The Chain As We Often Live it (2 Peter 1:5-7)



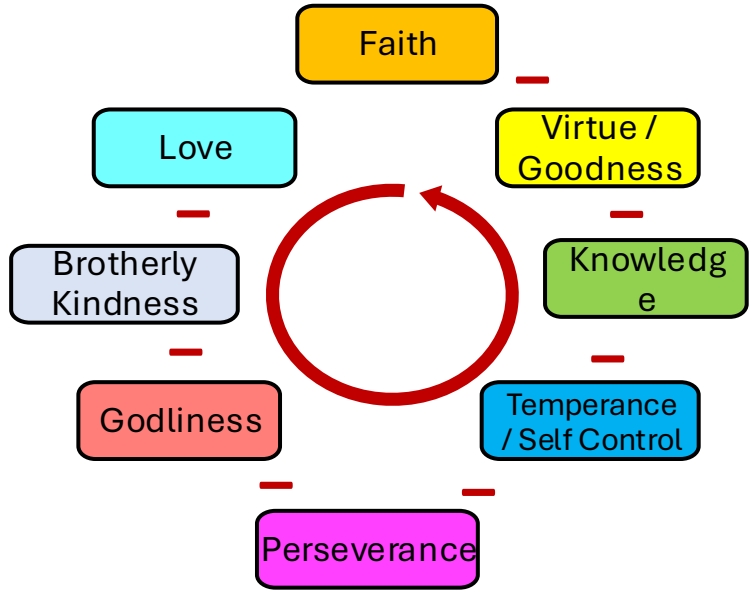


The Chain As Peter Builds It (2 Peter 1:5-7)

Faith + Virtue + Knowledge + Temperance + Patience + Godliness + Brotherly Kindness + Charity



Addition takes all diligence.
Subtraction only takes time.



Faith – Virtue – Knowledge – Temperance – Patience – Godliness – Brotherly Kindness – Charity