

Add to Your Faith...

Virtue

A vertical logo on the right side of the slide. It consists of a dark brown vertical bar. In the center of this bar, there are two stacked, rounded square boxes. The top box is a lighter brown and contains a yellow letter 'V'. The bottom box is a darker brown and contains a yellow letter 'F'.

V
F

2 Peter 1:3-5 (NKJV)

as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, **4** by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. **5** But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge,

V

F

Virtue?

- Moral excellence – NASB, NLT
- Excellence of character – LEB
- Goodness – NRSV, HCSB, NCV, GNT
- Excellence – NET Bible
- Virtue – ESV, NKJV, RSV
- Good character – The Message



Virtue – Arete - Excellence

- Manliness; martial valor
- Intellectual excellence
- Ethical excellence
- Righteousness; virtue
- Manifestation of power
- Fame; glory; honor

Virtue

the strength of moral character that values and chooses doing what is right over convenience, reputation, personal gain, the seeking of pleasure, the avoiding of pain, or even self-preservation

Manliness – Martial Valor

1 Corinthians 16:13 (ESV) — 13 Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.

1 Timothy 6:12 (ESV) — 12 Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

2 Timothy 2:3–4 (ESV) — 3 Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. **4** No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him.

Intellectual Excellence

James 1:5 (ESV) — 5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.

James 3:17 (ESV) — 17 But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.

1 Peter 1:13 (ESV) — 13 Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Moral Excellence; Virtue

Philippians 4:8 (NKJV) - Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.

Matthew 5:10–12 (NKJV) — **10** Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. **11** “Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. **12** Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Moral Excellence; Virtue

1 Peter 4:12–16 (NKJV) — **12** Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; **13** but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy. **14** If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified. **15** But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people's matters. **16** Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter.

Fame, Glory & Honor

Matthew 6:1–4 (NKJV) — 1 “Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven. **2** Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. **3** But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, **4** that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly.

Fame, Glory & Honor

Matthew 25:21 (NKJV) — 21 His lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’

Philippians 4:8 (NKJV)

Philippians 4:8 (NKJV) - if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.

How to Grow in Virtue

- Think about God's virtue

2 Peter 1:3-5 (NKJV)

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V

F

How to Grow in Virtue

- Think about God's virtue
- Think about the tested virtue of others

Hebrews 11:32-35 (NKJV)

And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of [those]... who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword.... Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection.

Daniel 3:16–18 (NKJV)

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego answered and said to the king, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. **17** If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. **18** But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up.”

The Fifth Brother

When he too died, after being cruelly tortured, the fifth leaped up, saying, “I will not refuse, tyrant, to be tortured for the sake of virtue. I have come of my own accord, so that by murdering me you will incur punishment from the heavenly justice for even more crimes. Hater of virtue, hater of humankind, for what act of ours are you destroying us in this way? Is it because we revere the Creator of all things and live according to his virtuous law? But these deeds deserve honors, not tortures.”

How to Grow in Virtue

- Think about God's virtue
- Think about the tested virtue of others
- Think about Jesus

Hebrews 12:2-3 (NKJV)

looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls.

How to Grow in Virtue

- Think about God's virtue
- Think about the tested virtue of others
- Think about Jesus
- Do the hard things that you know are right

Virtue

the strength of moral character that values and chooses doing what is right over convenience, reputation, personal gain, the seeking of pleasure, the avoiding of pain, or even self-preservation

The Perfectly Just Man

“Though doing no wrong he must have the repute of the greatest injustice, so that he may be put to the test as regards justice through not softening because of ill repute and the consequences thereof. But let him hold on his course unchangeable even unto death, seeming all his life to be unjust though being just, that so, both men attaining to the limit, the one of injustice, the other of justice, we may pass judgement which of the two is the happiest.... such being his disposition the just man will have to endure the lash, the rack, chains, the branding-iron in his eyes, and finally, after every extremity of suffering, he will be crucified.” - Plato’s Republic, c. 360 BC