

The Seven Christian Graces

PART 1



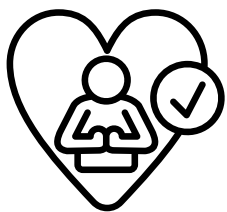
Core Scripture: 2 Peter 1:5-7

Introduction

The Christian life begins with faith, but it does not stop there. In 2 Peter 1:5-7, Peter shows us a ladder of growth, which are qualities we must add to our faith to live fruitful lives for Christ. These graces build on each other and reflect spiritual maturity. When we allow these graces to grow within us, they become our faith-in-action.

Faith – The Foundation

- Trusting in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord of our lives.
- Without faith, we cannot begin the Christian journey (Hebrews 11:6).



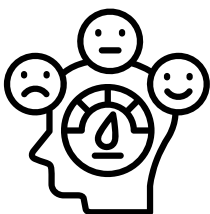
VIRTUE (Philippians 4:8)

Virtue, in Greek, is moral excellence. This moral excellence is achieved by repeated victories as we battle against the flesh, the world, and the devil. Virtue is the courage to do what is right and comes from God's strength in our lives that helps us in the battles through our obedience and dedication to God.



Knowledge (Proverbs 1:7; 9:10)

Through battles in which virtue is grown, knowledge will come. This knowledge is not just head knowledge, but spiritual understanding. This grace from God quickens our senses to see, hear, and discern spiritual things. Without true knowledge, we are like fish out of water.



Temperance (Self-Control) [Proverbs 16:32; 25:28]

The Greek word "enkrateia" means power or control over something. In this case, it is power and control over ourselves. Having temperance gives us the power to resist sinful desires and impulses and helps us to discipline our speech, thought patterns, and relationships. Our inner man, by the grace, will learn self-control and be brought under self-control.