

# **Steadfastness**

2 Peter 1:5-7

*Matt Smith*

10/27/24

## **Partakers Of The Divine Nature**

As followers of Christ, through the power of the Holy Spirit, we are able to become like Christ in character, values, attitudes and actions. This transformation starts with a growing knowledge of Jesus and His promises. Then we are to make every effort to supplement, or add to, our faith with the qualities found in 2 Peter 1:5-7

*<sup>6</sup>For this very reason, **make every effort** to supplement your faith with **virtue**, and virtue with **knowledge**, <sup>6</sup> and knowledge with **self-control**, and self-control with **Steadfastness**, and steadfastness with **godliness**, <sup>7</sup> and godliness with **brotherly affection**, and brotherly affection with **love**. 2 Peter 1:5-7 (ESV)*

To add virtue and knowledge to our faith is to put on the mind of Christ and to let His word dwell in us richly (Col. 3:16-17). Then we are to exercise self control as we seek to live in obedience to His word. As we grow in self control we are to put on steadfastness.

## **What is Steadfastness?**

Steadfastness is "The capacity to continue to bear up under difficult circumstances. Being able to endure." Another New Testament translation of the word says that steadfastness, "refers to that quality of character which does not allow one to surrender to circumstances or succumb under trial."

There were two primary ways that steadfastness was challenged in the lives of the people that Peter was speaking to:

Difficulties of life (persecution, rejection, desires of the flesh)

Deceptions of the world (The constant lies the world tells us about the gospel, the twisting of scripture that seeks to discredit it)

In the first century, as well as today, many Christians are constantly confronted with difficult circumstances and trials that challenge their faith. For the believer we should not pray to avoid trials, but to count them joy as James 1:3-4 says... " for you know that the *testing of your faith produces steadfastness. 4 And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.*

As we remain steadfast through trials we are being perfected, and that should give us strength.

**How do we remain steadfast under trials?**

The first thing to recognize is that it is through the help of the spirit, not our own effort, that we are able to endure. (v3)

- We are to recognize God's grace more than our ability to overcome.
- We are to recognize that God is with us, that He is good, that He loves me, that all his ways are right despite all the arguments against it.
- Remind ourselves that we are on mission with God and our actions affect his mission.
- Remind ourselves of the goal. If we remain steadfast we become more like Him and we are fruitful and effective in the work he gave us.
- If we succumb to the trial, we become unfruitful and ineffective.

This all goes back to letting the word of Christ dwell richly in us! Being connected to a church family is another way to help us remain steadfast. We are not meant to do the Christian life alone. Having relationships with people who share the same goal helps us to endure difficult circumstances. It builds support and gives us strength to handle the trials that we are facing.

## *Grace News and Needs*

---

- **Monthly Missions Meeting- Today @ 11:30am in Modular Classroom**
- **Men's Pickleball Game day: Nov. 3rd @ 4pm , see the website for more info**
- **John Thompson Memorial Service: Nov. 9th @ 11am**
- **VOM Needs for September: Combs**

***For more information on our events and ministries, visit [www.gccramona.com](http://www.gccramona.com)***