

Godly Living

2 Peter 1: 5-11

- Read the scripture out loud together.

Acts 3:1-10 (NLT)

⁵ For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, ⁶ and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, ⁷ and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. ⁸ For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ For whoever lacks these qualities is so near-sighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. ¹⁰ Therefore, brothers and sisters, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. ¹¹ For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Questions for discussion:

- Why should Christians make every effort to live godly lives?
- Does Peter's command to 'make every effort' undermine his message of salvation by grace through faith?
- What is the difference between 'justification' and 'sanctification'?
- Look at Peter's list of 7 qualities that together constitute godly living (verses 5-8): do any of the qualities on the list surprise you?
 - **Virtue** = goodness/moral excellence.
How do we know what constitutes being virtuous?
 - **Knowledge**
Are you devoted to deepening your knowledge of Jesus and what pleases Him?
 - **Self-control**
Have you found it harder or easier to live a self-controlled life in lockdown? How can we help one another fight against sin?
 - **Steadfastness**
Look up James 1:2-4. Do you live like this is true?

- **Godliness** = practical awareness of God in every part of life.
What helps you be more practically aware of God in every part of your life?
- **Brotherly affection**
Do you consider your fellow Christians (from all sorts of churches and traditions) to be your family in Christ?
- **Love** (agape)
Why do you think Peter's list culminates in love?
- How can you ensure that you are growing in these qualities?
- How does your future hope (eternity with Jesus in a world remade) shape the way you live in the here and now?