

Faith & Virtue

In **2 Peter 1**, we come across what could be described as **"God's Vitamin Cabinet."**

His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to _____ and _____,

through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory

and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. For this very reason, make every effort to _____... (2 Pet 1:3-5)

"Supplement" means "_____ to." Notice where real spiritual growth begins:

...make every effort to supplement your _____... (1:5)

I can't grow if I don't have faith. What is faith?

Now faith is the _____ of things hoped for, the _____ of things not seen. (Heb 11:1)

How *important* is faith?

And without faith it is _____ to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he _____ and that he rewards those who _____ him. (Heb 11:6)

Faith is the base of our spiritual diet, the foundation of our spiritual growth and development. But in order to grow as God wants us to grow, we have to "supplement"—add to—our faith.

...make every effort to supplement your faith with _____... (2 Pet 1:5)

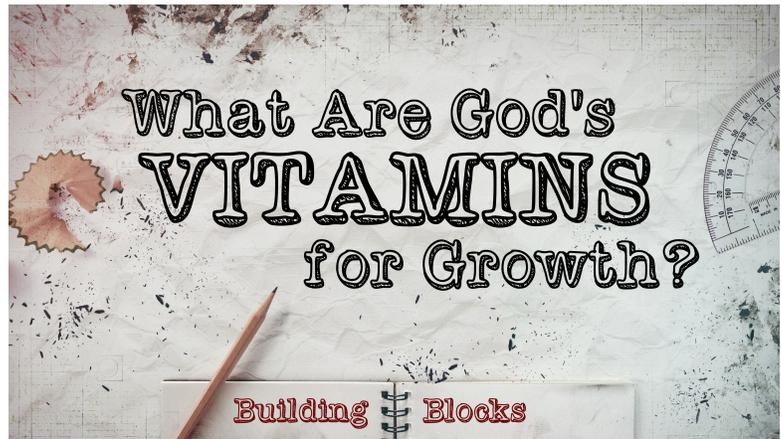
"Virtue" is "_____ " or "excellence." In his first letter, Peter wrote of Christians...

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the _____ of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. (1 Pet 2:9)

...or, as we heard in **2 Peter 1:3**, God has "called us to his own glory and **excellence**." Our God is "excellent," and he wants us to reflect his excellence in our daily lives. Where does that begin? With some really important decisions. "What's my standard?" "What am I going to think about?" "Who am I going to listen to?" **Philippians 4:8** is really helpful here:

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any _____, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

Virtue is what happens when we apply God's "excellent" will to our everyday lives.



For Class & Family Discussion:

- Let's focus in on 2 Peter 1:3-4.
 - What do you think is meant by “life and godliness”?

 - What difference does “the knowledge of him” make in our spiritual development?

 - When you hear “precious and very great promises,” what comes to your mind? What sort of examples can we come up with from the Bible of “precious and very great promises”?

 - The opposite of the health and growth our heavenly Father wants for us is “the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.” What is this “corruption” and why should we want to “escape” from it?

- In what way is faith the base of our spiritual diet, the foundation of our spiritual growth and development?

- Why can't I just say to God, “I believe” and be done with all this spiritual growth and development stuff?

- What are some practical, everyday things I can do to “supplement” or “add to” my faith?

Next Wednesday...

We'll focus in on and discuss the supplements of **knowledge** and **self-control** together.