

# Steadfastness & Godliness

We're exploring **2 Peter 1** and what we're calling "**God's Vitamin Cabinet.**" This evening, we're adding two more "supplements" to our list:

His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to

\_\_\_\_\_ and godliness, 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 \_\_\_\_\_ your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with \_\_\_\_\_, and steadfastness with \_\_\_\_\_... (2 Pet 1:3-6)



Let's start with **steadfastness**. What goes through your mind when you hear that word? It's very similar to the word *endurance* and really just means "**not** \_\_\_\_\_ **up.**" Throughout the New Testament, followers of Jesus Christ are encouraged to be steadfast.

... remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and \_\_\_\_\_ of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Thes 1:3)

...for you know that the \_\_\_\_\_ of your faith produces steadfastness. (James 1:3)



We'll talk more about that together, but **2 Peter 1** also highlights the need to supplement our steadfastness with **godliness**. The simplest way to think of godliness is "**God-**\_\_\_\_\_, " not in the sense of *becoming* God ourselves, but growing to think, talk, prioritize, act, and treat others like God. Obviously, the clearest picture we can possibly have of God-likeness is Jesus, and growing in godliness is going to take serious effort (2 Pet 1:5) on our part as his followers.

Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather \_\_\_\_\_ yourself \_\_\_\_\_ godliness; for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. (1 Tim 4:7-8)

\_\_\_\_\_ (1 Tim 6:11)

**Steadfastness** and **godliness**: absolutely essential supplements to our spiritual growth. **Let's talk about them...**

## For Class & Family Discussion:

- ▶ **Steadfastness.** What sort of *things* can you think of that are good examples of steadfastness?
  
- ▶ What about *people*? What examples of human steadfastness can you think of that illustrate endurance—“not giving up”—for us?
  
- ▶ We heard steadfastness tied to “**hope**” in **1 Thessalonians 1:3**. How are they connected?
  
- ▶ Let’s open our Bibles back to and read **James 1:2-4** together. How can “**the testing**” of faith “**produce**” steadfastness? What do you think James means by the encouragement to “**let steadfastness have its full effect**”? In what ways does this challenging process being described in **James 1** help us grow to be “**perfect and complete, lacking in nothing**”?
  
- ▶ We heard Paul warn in **1 Timothy 4:7** about having “**nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths.**” How can such things hinder our efforts to grow in godliness?
  
- ▶ Practically speaking, how can I “**train**” myself “**for godliness**” (**1 Tim 4:7**) or, put another way, “**pursue**” (**1 Tim 6:11**)? What does that look like in everyday terms?
  
- ▶ How would you rephrase and summarize the important message of **1 Timothy 4:8** in your own words?

## Next Wednesday...

We’ll focus in on and discuss the supplements of **brotherly affection** and **love**.