

II Peter 1:5-7 - Growing in the Attributes of Godliness

Tuesday, February 19, 2013
9:44 AM

I. Introduction

A. From big to little: how does our passage today fit into the whole of II Peter

1. The Big Picture: Premise of II Peter
 - a. Dangers will not only come from outside the church but also inside the church. Therefore we should guard against these by knowing the true gospel. The true gospel is marked by godliness and is found in Scripture. A gospel that denies godliness or disregards the promises of God or twists Scripture must be rejected. God will judge such things and will protect His church. Since the judgment of God is imminent, we must be diligent now to make our calling and election sure by pursuing righteousness and godliness.
 - b. In order to guard against false gospels, we must recognize the true gospel as that which is marked by godliness and is found in Scripture, any other gospel must be rejected.
2. II Peter 1: The Gospel is Marked by Godliness
 - a. Making your calling and election sure - godliness and the gospel go together (1:3-11)
 - b. Be reminded of these things - godliness is defined in Scripture (3:12-21)
3. II Peter 1:3-11: Godliness and the gospel go together
 - a. In verses 3-4, Peter argues that godliness and the gospel always go together because God has provided power for godliness in the gospel
 - b. In verses 5-7, Peter gives eight qualities that display godliness.
 - c. In verses 8-11, Peter exhorts us that these qualities are absolutely necessary to the professing believer.

B. Read II Peter 1:5-7

C. For this very reason - a call to review what we've done so far

1. For this very reason calls us not to these things out of our own power
 - a. Everything in these verses must be based on the power of Christ exercised in our lives
 - i. Vs 3a - *His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness*
 - b. Everything in these verses must be based on our knowing God as our Savior
 - i. Vs 3b - *Through the knowledge of Him who called us to His own glory and excellence*
 - c. Everything in these verses must be based on God's promises
 - i. Vs 4a - *By which He has granted us His precious and very great promises*
 - d. Everything in these verses must be done in order to be found in Christ's likeness
 - i. Vs 4b - *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.*
2. For this very reason calls us to see how important doing these things are
 - a. Why do we do these things?
 - i. Because God's power is working in us
 - ii. Because God has called us
 - iii. Because God has granted us promises
 - iv. Because God has purposed to make us in Christ's likeness
 - b. So, this is no light matter this morning
3. So, for this very reason, make every effort....
 - a. A reminder of the last sentence that points us to the How and the Why of our passage this morning.

D. Proposition and Outline

1. Proposition: Based on Christ's power in verses 3-4, we must continually be growing in godliness.
2. Outline
 - a. Introduction: For This Very Reason
 - b. Growing in Godliness
 - c. Eight Attributes of Godliness
 - d. Applications

II. Growing in Godliness

A. In II Peter 1:5-7, Peter is calling us to growth in the Christian life

1. Comparison to other lists
2. Topic of II Peter

B. Comparison to other lists

1. Several places in the New Testament we have lists of attributes given to us, for example:
 - a. The fruits of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22-23 - *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.*
 - b. The beatitudes in Matthew 5:2-12
 - c. The armor of God in Ephesians 6:13-18
2. Why are we given different lists of attributes? Why are they different?
 - a. We see that there is a lot of overlap in each of these passages, but I think if we look at the main point of the list, we can start to explain some of the differences
 - b. Galatians 5:22-23 - these attributes are things you can look for to see the Spirit's power in your life
 - c. Matthew 5:2-12 - these are characteristics of those who are being blessed by God
 - d. Ephesians 6:13-18 - these are attributes that you will need to fight against the devil's schemes
3. So, we could compare our passage this morning to these other 'list' passages to try to get an idea of what Peter's main point with this list is
 - a. II Peter 1:5-7 - *For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love.*
 - b. What is the big difference we see between this list and other lists? Peter's list has a quality of growth to it.

C. Growth is a topic that Peter brings up several times in II Peter

1. A survey over all of II Peter
 - a. The concept of growth might not stand out right at first, when we look at II Peter, but consider the following references
 - i. In II Peter 1:5, Peter says, "*For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue...*"
 - i) The word supplement, here, or supply is sometimes translated growth or increase in the New Testament
 - ii) So, in some of your translations, like the KJV, it is translated 'add'
 - ii. In II Peter 1:8, Peter says, "*If these qualities are yours and are increasing...*"
 - i) Using another word that is even more clear, Peter tells us that we should be adding more of these to our lives
 - iii. The reason I say this is a topic in II Peter, though, is how Peter ends the letter in 3:18, "*But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*"
 - i) The purposes of Peter's letter can be summed up as Peter's desire for us to grow in grace and godliness and not to fall back into sinful desires.
 - b. So, starting with our passage this morning and continuing through II Peter, Peter calls us to grow in the Christian life
2. A survey over the first half of II Peter 1
 - a. Not only is growth, or addition, a theme of all of II Peter, but specifically of II Peter 1:3-11
 - i. In verses 3 and 4, God has added to us His power and His promises
 - ii. Therefore, in verses 5-10, we should be adding godly attributes to ourselves
 - iii. Then, in verse 11, there will be added to us and entrance into the eternal kingdom
 - i) In fact, the same exact word is used in verse 5 and verse 11 - we add these attributes to our lives and through these attributes God adds to us and entrance to Christ's kingdom
 - b. So, Peter is focusing on addition - God has added to you and will add to you, now follow Him and be adding to yourself

D. So, this list of attributes represents growth in Christ

1. Application - we must be growing in Christ! (Revisit this in II Peter 1:8-11 next week)
2. Interpretive scheme - since Peter expresses these attributes or qualities as a progression, then we ought to understand them as growing into each other. Faith ought to grow in virtue and virtue must proceed out of faith somehow. Virtue ought to grow in knowledge and knowledge must proceed out of virtue somehow.

E. Interpretation - a linear progression of attributes

1. So, as we look at these attributes, I am going to give a definition of each one and that definition is going to be based on the last attribute. How does this attribute grow out of the last attribute? I think this will help us understand what Peter means by each of these words and therefore help us know how to respond to Peter's admonition.
2. But, before we start, I need to qualify what I mean. When I say there is a linear progression of attributes here, I do not mean that we perfect each attribute on the list before we move to the next one. We don't become perfect in faith before we pursue virtue. We don't become perfect in virtue before we pursue knowledge. We don't become perfect in knowledge before we pursue self-control.
3. Instead, what I mean is that there is a natural growth along this line. When we have a little faith, we ought to grow a little in virtue; and that ought to lead to growing a little in knowledge and then to a little growth in self-control. Then as we grow in faith more, we grow in virtue more which leads to growth in knowledge and then growth in self-control, etc.
4. So, we should always be growing in each of these qualities, but the continual growth in the latter qualities should flow out of the continual growth of the earlier qualities.

III. Eight Attributes of Godliness

A. Faith

1. Definition: Believing the future promises of God are true in Christ
 - a. It is believing in the promises of God that we don't yet see
 - i. Hebrews 11:1 - *Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.*
 - b. It is being fully convinced that God will fulfill His promise
 - i. Romans 4:20-21 - *No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised.*
 - c. It is understanding that God's promises are fulfilled in Christ
 - i. II Corinthians 1:19-20 - *For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, whom we proclaimed among you, Silvanus and Timothy and I, was not Yes and No, but in him it is always Yes. For all the promises of God find their Yes in him.*
2. Where does faith come from?
 - a. Peter is writing and speaking to those who have already obtained or been allotted faith
 - i. II Peter 1:1 - *To those who have obtained a faith of equal standing with ours by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ*
 - b. So faith is the gift of God
 - i. Ephesians 4:8-9 - *For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.*

B. Virtue

1. Definition: Desiring to live **according to your faith**, to do the right thing, to be righteous
 - a. It is defined by the desire for righteousness in the beatitudes
 - i. Matthew 5:6 - *"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.*
 - b. It is the first step in the putting on of the divine nature
 - i. Ephesians 4:20-24 - *You, however, did not come to know Christ that way. Surely you heard of him and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.*
 - ii. Romans 12:2 - *Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*
 - c. It is the desire to obey Paul's urging in Ephesians 4
 - i. Ephesians 4:1 - *As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.*
2. How do we add virtue to faith? How do we grow in a desire for righteousness?
 - a. First, we must presuppose that we have faith, without faith, we cannot grow in a true desire for righteousness.
 - i. (same for all other points here)
 - b. Meditate on virtuous things continually, fill your mind with things that are right and good
 - i. Philippians 4:8 - *Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.*
 - c. Particularly, fill your mind with the things of Christ and what He has done
 - i. Colossians 3:1-2 - *If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.*

C. Knowledge

1. Contrast with epignosis in verses 2 and 3
2. Definition: Knowing about the things of God, to know **the right things**, to know the will of God
 - a. This type of knowledge are the things we learn and can teach each other - what we might call theology or doctrine
 - i. Romans 15:14 - *I myself am satisfied about you, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all **knowledge** and able to instruct one another.*
 - b. The purpose of this knowledge is to know how to please God
 - i. Ephesians 5:9-10 - *Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord.*
 - ii. Ephesians 5:17 - *Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.*
 - iii. Romans 12:2 - *Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*
3. How do we add knowledge to virtue?
 - a. Study Scripture diligently
 - b. Read good, biblical books
 - c. Love theology

D. Self-control

1. Definition: Controlling your body **according to the things you know about God**
 - a. It is having control over ourselves for holiness and honor
 - i. I Thessalonians 4:3-5 - *For this is the will of God, your sanctification...that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God;*
 - b. It is disciplining ourselves so that we keep it under control when faced with trial and temptation
 - i. I Corinthians 9:24-27 - *Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.*
2. How do we add self-control to knowledge?
 - a. Self-control = rule over yourself, so make rules for yourself (Jonathon Edwards)
 - i. Resolved, If I take delight in it as a gratification of pride, or vanity, or on any such account, immediately to throw it by.
 - ii. Resolved, Never to do any thing, which I should be afraid to do, if I expected it would not be above an hour before I should hear the last trump.
 - iii. Resolved, Frequently to take some deliberate action, which seems most unlikely to be done, for the glory of God, and trace it back to the original intention, designs, and ends of it; and if I find it not to be for God's glory, to repute it as a breach of the fourth Resolution.
 - iv. Resolved, Whenever I do any conspicuously evil action, to trace it back, till I come to the original cause; and then, both carefully endeavour to do so no more, and to fight and pray with all my might against the origin of it.
 - v. Resolved, To examine carefully and constantly, what that one thing in me is, which causes me in the least to doubt of the love of God; and so direct all my forces against it.
 - vi. Resolved, To study the Scriptures so steadily, constantly, and frequently, as that I may find, and plainly perceive, myself to grow in the knowledge of the same.

E. Steadfastness

1. Definition: Enduring **with self-control** at all times even when it gets hard
 - a. It is not shifting from the truths of the gospel
 - i. Colossians 1:23 - *if indeed you **continue** in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.*
 - b. It is doing this especially when it is hard because you face temptation
 - i. James 1:12-15 - *Blessed is the man who **remains steadfast** under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.*
 - c. It is doing this especially when it is hard because you face persecution
 - i. Hebrews 10:32-36 - *But recall the former days when, after you were enlightened, you **endured** a hard struggle with sufferings, sometimes being publicly exposed to reproach and affliction, and sometimes being partners with those so treated. For you had compassion on those in prison, and you joyfully accepted the plundering of your property, since you knew that you yourselves had a better possession and an abiding one. Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. For you have need of **endurance**, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised.*
 - ii. Hebrews 12:1-3 - *Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with **endurance** the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him **endured** the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who **endured** from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.*
 - iii. 1 Peter 2:20 - *For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you **endure**? But if when you do good and suffer for it you **endure**, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God.*
2. How do we add steadfastness to self-control?
 - a. We keep a close watch on our actions and our beliefs at all times, especially when we're not facing trials and temptations
 - i. 1 Timothy 4:16 - *Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. **Persist** in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers.*
 - b. We keep our eyes focused on the reward at the end, that is on Christ, at all times, especially when we are facing trials and temptations
 - i. Hebrews 10:35-36 - *Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. For you have need of **endurance**, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised.*
 - ii. Hebrews 12:1-2 - *Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with **endurance** the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith,*

F. Godliness

1. Definition: Being wholly devoted to the things of God **as steadfastness overtakes all of life**
 - a. It is the necessary end of right doctrine
 - i. I Timothy 6:3 - *If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with **godliness**, he is puffed up with conceit and understands nothing.*
 - ii. Titus 1:1 - *Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the sake of the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth, which accords with **godliness**,*
 - b. It describes those who fear God rightly with their entire life
 - i. Acts 10:1-2 - *At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion of what was known as the Italian Cohort, a **devout** man who feared God with all his household, gave alms generously to the people, and prayed continually to God.*
2. How do we add godliness to steadfastness?
 - a. Again, Paul calls us to train for godliness - we train for self-control and then we train ourselves to exhibit self-control even when it's hard which is steadfastness, now we train ourselves to exhibit steadfastness in all areas of our life
 - i. I Timothy 4:7-8 - *Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather train yourself for **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 come.*

G. Brotherly affection

1. Definition: Being devoted to the people of God as we grow **in our devotion to God**
 - a. It is being a friend of the brethren, camaraderie
 - i. This is literally what the word means, *philos*, love as a friend, *adelphos*, brother
 - ii. So, literally, we should be friend to our brothers and sisters in Christ, we should be fond of our fellow church members
 - b. It is having agape love for our brothers and sisters in Christ,
 - i. I Thessalonians 4:9 - *Now concerning **brotherly love** you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another,*
 - ii. I Peter 1:22 - *Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere **brotherly love**, love one another earnestly from a pure heart,*
 - c. It is finding special delight in our brothers and sisters
 - i. Psalm 16:3 - *As for the saints in the land, they are the excellent ones, in whom is all my delight.*
2. How do we add brotherly affection to godliness?
 - a. We practice friendship particularly in the local church, we delight in our fellow church members
 - i. I John 4:20-21 - *If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.*
 - ii. Therefore, we covenant together specifically to love each other as fellow members of this church: "I will watch over the other members in love as they watch over me."
 - b. We act to serve each other, to care for each other's needs even at the expense of our own
 - i. I John 3:16-18 - *By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.*
 - c. We seek to honor each other above ourselves
 - i. Romans 12:9-10 - *Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.*
 - d. We combat actions and attitudes that are not for each other's benefit
 - i. I Peter 1:22, 2:1 - *Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart...So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander.*
 - e. We refuse to take offense at each other
 - i. I Peter 4:8 - *Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins.*

H. Love

1. Definition: Caring for all people, even our enemies, **like we care for God's people**
 - a. Love is loving all people, even our enemies
 - i. Matthew 5:43-48 - *"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.*
 - b. This love is the capstone of all Christian virtues
 - i. I Corinthians 13:13 - *So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.*
 - ii. Galatians 5:6 - *For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love.*
 - iii. Colossians 3:14 - *And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.*
2. How do we add love to brotherly affection?
 - a. We meditate on the love of Christ and work to express that love in our lives
 - i. I John 4:7-10 - *Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*
 - ii. Romans 5:6-8 - *For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person---though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die--- but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*
 - iii. Ephesians 5:2 - *and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.*

IV. Applications

A. The necessity of faith-fueled desire

1. First application is focused on what I'm not calling you to do
 - a. This morning I will not be calling you to a slavish fulfillment of these commands
 - b. I'm not calling you to put effort into these things if you don't want them
 - c. I'm not calling you to a legalism that rigorously attempts to put these on without any heart desire to do so
2. So, what if you don't feel a desire for these things? Do I have anything for you this morning?
 - a. If you don't want these things in your life, I'm not calling you to put in desireless effort
 - b. But, I will call you to something - I call you to get on your knees before God, to repent before Him and to cry out for mercy that He would give you a desire for these things
 - c. Cry out that God would give you a faith that desires these things
3. I make this my first application, because it flows directly from the passage
 - a. Peter says, "*For this very reason...*"
 - b. Peter tells us that this list of attributes must be rooted in the power of God acting through the promises of God in our lives, so, these attributes cannot be attempted on our own power

B. The necessity of Spirit-filled prayer

1. My second application this morning follows on the first - what if you do feel a desire in your heart to do these things?
 - a. What if God has granted you a faith that desires to grow in these things?
 - b. What am I calling you to this morning?
2. To you, I say the same thing - get on your knees before God
 - a. The father of the boy with the unclean spirit cried out, "*Lord, I believe, help my unbelief!*"
 - b. When you feel the first twinge of desire for these things, the first thing you should do is be driven to prayer
 - c. If you want your faith to grow, plead with God for more faith
 - d. If you have a desire for virtue in your life a desire to do the right things, then pray that God would be renewing the attitude of your mind
 - e. If you desire to grow in knowledge, then pray that God would reveal Himself to you in His Word - that He would be teaching you the things that He desires
 - f. If you desire self-control, pray that God would grant you His Spirit so that through the Spirit's power you can be putting to death the deeds of the flesh
 - g. If you desire steadfastness, then pray that God's Spirit would so indwell you that the fruit of patience would be evident in your life
3. This is again based out the same phrase in II Peter 1:5 - *For this very reason...*
 - a. If you do have a desire for these things, working them out must still be done in Christ's power through Christ's promises
 - b. This ought to drive us on our knees before God

C. The necessity of faith-driven effort

1. Before we close this morning, we do need to emphasize one more phrase in verse 5 in our applications
 - a. Peter says, "*make every effort!*" Be diligent to do these things.
2. So, after you have been on your knees before God, repenting of lack of desire and pleading with Him to grant you these things, then I am calling you to go out and do them
 - a. Go out and put in intense effort into making these things yours
 - b. Put effort into gaining knowledge about the things of God
 - c. Put effort into resisting sin and controlling your own bodies
 - d. Put effort into growing godliness in all of your lives
 - e. Put effort into loving the members of our church
3. As we went through the attributes, I tried to give a few pointers on how you might put effort into making these things yours, so go and do those things.
4. (Henry) Without *giving all diligence*, there is no gaining any ground in the work of holiness; those who are slothful in the business of religion will make nothing of it; we must strive if we will *enter in at the strait gate*

V. Conclusions

A. For This Very Reason

1. The attributes in these verses are not given in a void
2. They flow from and are based out of the previous two verses: the power and the promises of God

B. Grow in Godliness

1. The main thrust of these verses is that godliness is something that all Christians must be growing in
2. The evidence of the Spirit's work are these qualities, so as the Spirit is transforming us into the image of Christ, we must be growing in these attributes

C. Eight Attributes of Godliness

1. Faith - Believing the future promises of God are true in Christ
2. Virtue - Desiring to live **according to your faith**, to do the right thing, to be righteous
3. Knowledge - Knowing about the things of God, to know **the right things**, to know the will of God
4. Self-control - Controlling your body **according to the things you know about God**
5. Steadfastness - Enduring **with self-control** at all times even when it gets hard
6. Godliness - Being wholly devoted to the things of God **as steadfastness overtakes all of life**
7. Brotherly affection - Being devoted to the people of God as we grow **in our devotion to God**
8. Love - Caring for all people, even our enemies, **like we care for God's people**

D. Applications

1. The necessity of faith-fueled desire
2. The necessity of Spirit-filled prayer
3. The necessity of faith-driven effort