

**BOOK OF 2 PETER**  
**KEYS TO SPIRITUAL GROWTH**  
**ADD PATIENCE TO TEMPERANCE**  
**2 PETER 1:5-7**

We have been looking at what it takes for **BELIEVERS** to **MATURE** or **GROW SPIRITUALLY** so that we can be **EFFECTIVE** for the **LORD**:

- 1) **We Must Have A FIRM FOUNDATION Of FAITH IN CHRIST To Build On!** (i.e. Be truly **BORN AGAIN** by the **SPIRIT OF GOD** and as such be **"IN CHRIST!"**)
  
- 2) **We Must Practice SPIRITUAL DILIGENCE In ADDING TO OUR FAITH Seven Things Listed by PETER in Verses 5-7!**  
(i.e. We must **put forth maximum effort** to become all we can be **"IN CHRIST!"** We must **never settle for less** than being all that the **LORD** would have us to be!) We have looked at 3 of the 7...
  1. **We Must ADD VIRTUE To Our FAITH!**  
**VIRTUE** is defined as the **DESIRE TO DO WHAT IS RIGHT!** (Because if we don't have a **STRONG DESIRE TO DO WHAT IS RIGHT**, then we will probably **NOT DO WHAT IS RIGHT!**)
  
  2. **We Must ADD KNOWLEDGE To That VIRTUE!**  
(We must **ABIDE IN RIGHT DOCTRINE** so that we **HAVE KNOWLEDGE OF WHAT IS RIGHT!**)
  
  3. **We Must ADD TEMPERANCE To That KNOWLEDGE!** (i.e. We must **EXERCISE THE SELF-DISCIPLINE** [with the aid of the **HOLY SPIRIT**] **TO DO WHAT IS RIGHT ONCE WE KNOW WHAT THE RIGHT THING TO DO IS!**)

Now come to the fourth thing we are to **ADD** found in *verse 6*.  
**TO TEMPERANCE WE ARE TO ADD PATIENCE!**

The word translated "**PATIENCE**" refers to *"steadfastly enduring in faith, not surrendering to circumstances."* We could describe it as *"to keep on keeping on for the Lord."*

**BOOK OF 2 PETER**  
**KEYS TO SPIRITUAL GROWTH**  
**ADD PATIENCE TO TEMPERANCE**  
**2 PETER 1:5-7**

We could describe this **"PATIENCE"** as **"SPIRITUAL ENDURANCE,"** so that we will **KEEP ON DOING WHAT IS RIGHT WHEN WE ARE CHALLENGED OR OPPOSED!**

Why do we need this matter of **"PATIENCE"** or **"SPIRITUAL ENDURANCE?"** Why does **PETER** include this ingredient in the recipe of a **MATURING FAITH IN CHRIST?** There are several **SCRIPTURAL** reasons for this that we can look at:

- I. **BELIEVERS ARE NOT SHIELDED FROM DIFFICULTIES!**  
Some people **BELIEVE** and some **FALSE TEACHER'S TEACH**, that if you will just **BELIEVE** on **CHRIST FOR SALVATION**, then all of your problems will vanish and everything will be just *"Hunky Dory!"* (Joel Osteen and Rod Parsely and others like them proclaim this type of **FALSE DOCTRINE**.)

There is not one shred of **TRUTH** to that! In *2 Timothy 3:12*, just the opposite is revealed. That **SCRIPTURE** is clear that **ALL WHO WILL LIVE GODLY IN CHRIST JESUS SHALL SUFFER PERSECUTION!** (**PAUL'S writing to TIMOTHY!**)

But **PAUL** went on to say tell **TIMOTHY** to **"CONTINUE"** in the things he had learned! To do that takes **PATIENCE!** To do that takes **SPIRITUAL ENDURANCE!**

Our **BAPTIST HERITAGE** and this **BLESSED BOOK** that we **PREACH** out of are paved with the blood of the **MARTYRS** who dared to **CONTEND FOR THE FAITH!**

The recipients of this letter were certainly facing difficulty and they needed to be **ENCOURAGED TO REMAIN STEADFAST AND FAITHFUL TO THE LORD!**

**NERO**, who was a madman, was in power in **ROME** at that time.

**BOOK OF 2 PETER**  
**KEYS TO SPIRITUAL GROWTH**  
**ADD PATIENCE TO TEMPERANCE**  
**2 PETER 1:5-7**

He was so deranged that he killed his first three wives as well as his own mother for fear of losing his political power. Under his insanity, the flames of **PERSECUTION** were ignited against the **CHURCH!**

Such **PERSECUTION** brought enormous **PRESSURE** upon the these **BELIEVERS** to “*give in*” to the opposition and surrender their **LOYALTY TO CHRIST!**

Now understand that **PETER** too, knew what **DIFFICULTY** was! In **ACTS** we learn of how he was **IMPRISONED FOR BOLDLY PREACHING THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST!** **GOD** miraculously freed him on two separate occasions. (*Acts 5:17ff and 12:3ff*)

Although he was **JAILED** and **THREATENED** not to ever **PREACH IN THE NAME OF JESUS** again, he nevertheless **PERSISTED IN PROCLAIMING JESUS!**

We too may face **DIFFICULTY** at times! **JAMES** called them **TEMPTATIONS** and **TRIALS!**

*James 1:2-3–“My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.”*

**TRIALS** come in *divers* (or *various* forms), but they come! I may not face what you face and you may not face what I face! However, if we **DETERMINE that we are going to LIVE GODLY IN CHRIST JESUS, we will face TRIALS!**

**That's one of the reasons WE NEED TO MAINTAIN PATIENCE or SPIRITUAL ENDURANCE in our lives!**

**When PETER** wrote his first **EPISTLE** to **BELIEVERS** who were under tremendous **PERSECUTION!** He told them **THE TRIAL OF THEIR FAITH WAS PRECIOUS!** (*1 Peter 1:3-9*)

**BOOK OF 2 PETER**  
**KEYS TO SPIRITUAL GROWTH**  
**ADD PATIENCE TO TEMPERANCE**  
**2 PETER 1:5-7**

Let's look at some other things **PETER** told them:  
*1 Peter 3:14; 4:12-14, 19*

*BELIEVERS ARE NOT SHIELDED FROM DIFFICULTIES!*

**II. BELIEVERS ARE NOT SHIELDED FROM DEFEATS!**  
In the **SCRIPTURES** we learn not only of the **VICTORIES** of many **SAINTS OF GOD**, but we also learn about some of the **DEFEATS** of those who **FOLLOWED HIM!** (*e.g. DAVID*)

**JAMES** tells us not only about the **BATTLES** we will have with **TRIALS**, but he also tells us about the **BATTLES** we will have with **TEMPTATION!**

*James 1:12–“Blessed is the man that endureth temptation..”*

It takes **PATIENCE** or **SPIRITUAL ENDURANCE**, to press on even when we have **FAILED THE LORD!** (*e.g. PETER!*)

Some have **FAILED THE LORD** and then **QUIT ON THE LORD.** I don't remember who said it, but I think it has been attributed to the late Vince Lombardi, Coach of the first Super Bowl Champions, The Green Bay Packers. “*Quitters never win and winners never quit.*”

Let me modify that a little. “*Winners never stay quit.*” They may get injured or even make a bad decision and go to the sidelines, but they **eventually get back up and get back into the game!**

Sometimes folks' **PRIDE** won't let them get back where they need to be with the **LORD!** Some used to serve the **LORD**, but then something happened and somehow they failed **HIM!** Now **PRIDE** stands in the way of them even admitting they were wrong.

We don't like to **admit we were wrong!** Especially publically.

**BOOK OF 2 PETER  
KEYS TO SPIRITUAL GROWTH  
ADD PATIENCE TO TEMPERANCE  
2 PETER 1:5-7**

**PUBLIC SIN** requires a **PUBLIC CONFESSION**.

**SINS OF THE HEART** need only to be carried to the **LORD!**  
When we **SIN** against **CHRIST**, we need to **GET THINGS  
RIGHT WITH HIM!**

However, when we **SIN** against another person, we need to try to  
**get things right with that other person and the LORD!**

And if we **SIN** against the **CHURCH**, we need to **GET THINGS  
RIGHT WITH THE CHURCH and WITH THE LORD!**

May **GOD** help us to **GET THINGS RIGHT** when we are wrong!  
And may **HE** help us get to **GET THINGS RIGHT IN THE  
RIGHT WAY!**

So, when we fail, we need to watch that we **DON'T GIVE UP!**  
We need to **ENDURE** by **FOLLOWING GOD'S WORD!**

*Proverbs 28:13– “He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but  
whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.”*

So, we need **SPIRITUAL ENDURANCE** because **WE ARE NOT  
SHIELDED FROM DIFFICULTIES or FROM DEFEATS**, and  
then finally....

**III. BELIEVERS ARE NOT SHIELDED FROM  
DISCOURAGEMENTS!**

One of **SATAN'S** most effect weapons against **BELIEVERS** is  
**DISCOURAGEMENT!**

**SCRIPTURE** warns us to not become weary in well doing.

*Galatians 6:9– “And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due  
season we shall reap, if we faint not.”*

**BOOK OF 2 PETER  
KEYS TO SPIRITUAL GROWTH  
ADD PATIENCE TO TEMPERANCE  
2 PETER 1:5-7**

*2 Thessalonians 3:13– “But ye, brethren, be not weary in well  
doing.”*

That means it is possible for **BELIEVERS** to become weary in  
**well doing!**

Remember how **JOSHUA** got **DISCOURAGED** after the defeat at  
Ai. (That defeat was caused by the *sin of one man*, **ACHAN**.)

**ELIJAH** got **DISCOURAGED** after the **MT. CARMEL**  
experience because of **JEZEBEL!** (*Wicked leadership*.)

**JOB** got **DISCOURAGED** because he didn't understand what  
**GOD** was doing in his life.

**JEREMIAH** got **DISCOURAGED** when he was **PERSECUTED**  
for just **BEING OBEDIENT TO GOD**.

**PETER** got **DISCOURAGED** when he **DENIED THE LORD** and  
**FAILED HIM** so miserably.

**TIMOTHY**, **PAUL'S** son in the **FAITH**, almost succumbed to  
**DISCOURAGEMENT**. In the first chapter of *1 Timothy*, **PAUL**  
hints that **TIMOTHY** was wanting to leave **EPHESUS** because he  
was having a **DISCOURAGING** run of it as the Pastor there.

**PAUL** told him to “. . .*abide still at Ephesus.*” and then  
**CHALLENGED** him to take a strong stand.

**PAUL** gave him the instruction to use his **GIFTS** for **GOD!** Later  
in *2 Timothy*, **PAUL** told him to “*endure hardness*” as a good  
soldier of **JESUS CHRIST!**

And then, **PAUL** told **TIMOTHY** to be **FAITHFUL** to the task of  
**PREACHING THE WORD!** (*2 Timothy 4:1-4*)

**BOOK OF 2 PETER**  
**KEYS TO SPIRITUAL GROWTH**  
**ADD PATIENCE TO TEMPERANCE**  
**2 PETER 1:5-7**

There are many things that can **DISCOURAGE** us.

We can get discouraged because of people.

We can get discouraged because of circumstances.

We can get discouraged because of family problems.

We can get discouraged because of physical problems.

We can get discouraged because of Church problems.

I believe the way to **OVERCOME DISCOURAGEMENT** is to **STAY FOCUSED ON THE RIGHT THING.**

*Hebrews 12:1-3*, tells us that we are to keep our eyes on **JESUS!**

*Colossians 3:1-3* tells us to **SEEK THOSE THINGS WHICH ARE ABOVE** and to **SET OUR AFFECTION ON THINGS ABOVE!**

**JESUS is OUR GREAT EXAMPLE! JESUS is OUR GREAT ENCOURAGER! JESUS ENDURED! He ENDURED THE CROSS!**

**JESUS DID GOD'S WILL EVEN WHEN IT WAS HARD TO DO GOD'S WILL! So must we!**

**Conclusion**

So, in order to **MATURE** as we should, we must **ADD TO OUR FAITH SOME PATIENCE, some SPIRITUAL ENDURANCE!**

How?

First... By **TRUSTING GOD** in times of our **DIFFICULTIES!**

Second... By **CONFESSING SIN** in times of our **DEFEATS!**

Third... By **STAYING FOCUSED** in times of **DISCOURAGEMENT!**