

2Peter 1:5-8 *“But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.”*
(NKJV)

EVER INCREASING SELF-CONTROL

Adding Self-control to Knowledge

- **As we add more knowledge about God's righteousness, we need to exercise self-control to put the knowledge into practice.**
- It is a quality that must be demonstrated in men who are to be appointed to serve as elders.
 - **Titus 1:5, 8** "5For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint elders in every city as I commanded you— ... 8but hospitable, a lover of what is good, sober-minded, just, holy, self-controlled,"
- It is part of the fruit of God and living in the Spirit compels us to grow in this virtue (excellent moral character).

The Fruit of the Spirit

- **Gal 5:16-23** *"I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law."*

Training For Victory

- Regardless of how wise or spiritually strong we might be, self-control is a necessary quality to live like Christ and please God.
- James asks the following question after discussing controlling the tongue.
 - **James 3:13** *"Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom."*
- **1Cor 9:24-27** *"Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified."*

The Goal of Self-Control

- It's not just to stop the conduct that God hates but to do those things which please Him.
- **James 4:17** *"Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin."*
- **John 8:29** *"And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him."*
- **2Cor 5:9** *"Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him."*
- **Col 1:10** *"that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;"*

Putting Good Ideas Into Action

- **Hebrews 10:23-25** ~ What does this passage command us to do?
 - I didn't ask what this passage tells us not to do. Yet, many will think of this passage as the attendance command, but I say to you, and please check it out and tell me if you think I'm wrong, that the warning to not forsake assembling with one another is only given here because you can't fulfill the commands that are given without being able to talk and or touch one another from time to time.
 - *"Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching."*