

## Supplements for Your Journey

### 2 Peter 1:1-11

#### Introduction

God has supplied seven character qualities that believers must develop in order to be spiritually victorious on earth and greatly rewarded in heaven. Developing each one of these traits is a major part of our spiritual growth as believers who continue to work out the salvation you already possess. (*Philippians 2:12*)

Quality number one is moral excellence. This refers to having a high moral and ethical standard. Moral excellence occurs when someone operates within a Kingdom value system. The second character quality is knowledge, which is the utilization of divine truth in decision making. It is biblically based spiritual discernment which uses God's knowledge as a basis for making choices in life. The third character quality is self-control. One exhibits self-control when one masters their desires instead of their desires mastering them. In other words this person can govern what they feel instead of having their feelings govern them. Perseverance is the fourth character quality God supplies. This is exhibited when a person does not give up due to adversity but rather holds their ground as they wait on the Lord to come through. The fifth character quality is godliness. Godliness involves the reflection of an awareness of God in every part of our lives even during times of trouble. A person, who is conscious of God in all things, maintains attitudes and actions that reflect Him in their lives no matter the circumstances. Brotherly kindness is the sixth quality and it is when people show commitment to meeting legitimate needs and promoting harmony within the family of God. Lastly, the seventh character quality is love. Love happens when people compassionately and righteously seek the well being of others, both inside and outside the family of God. This is demonstrated by the sacrificial meeting of needs.

Each of these quality traits are built upon one's foundation of faith, and enabled by the divine nature we already have existing in us. (*2 Peter 1:3-4*)

#### Getting Started

1. What point from today's sermon resonated with you most? Share with your groups.
2. So far from the sermon series on the **Triumphant Trip to Heaven**, what have you learned that is most helpful in taking practical steps to prepare for the time when you will leave this earth and move into eternity?

#### Let's Get Personal

1. Which of these character qualities would you consider your strengths and which of these character qualities would you consider your weakness for you?
2. Why do you think you struggle to exhibit the seven character qualities listed?

#### Take the Next Step

1. Spend some time looking up the Scriptures tied to each character quality.
  - a. Moral Excellence (Ps 101:1-3; 119:37; Rom 13:11-14; Heb 4:13)
  - b. Knowledge (Hos 4:6; Rom 11:33; Matt 11:28-29; Ezra 7:10)
  - c. Self-Control (James 3:2-12; Prov 21:23; Prov 17:27; Eph 4:31)
  - d. Perseverance (Job 5:10-11; 2 Cor 5:8-10; Heb 12:1-3; Ps 37:7; James 1:2-4; Col 1:11)
  - e. Godliness (1 Tim 4:7-8; Titus 2:11-14; 2 Pet 3:11-13)
  - f. Brotherly Kindness (Rom 12:10; 1 Pet 3:8; Gal 5:15; Heb 13:1)
  - g. Love (John 3:16; 13:35; Rom 12:19-21; Matt 5:44; 1 John 4:7-11)
2. What did you learn through reading about these character qualities in the scripture? What practical steps do you need to take this week in order to better develop these traits in your Christian walk?

#### Renew Your Mind

*"For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."*