

Philippians 4:8 (quoted above) is a well-known verse that teaches followers of Jesus what the emphasis of our thoughts should be. Amongst other things, Paul tells us to look for anything that is virtuous to think about.

Assuredly, Paul is not telling us to ignore the evils of this world. We must be aware of the schemes of the enemy, but the works of darkness must not be our focus. We must not be constantly downtrodden and in despair because of the wickedness abundantly evident throughout the world. Our focus must be on the Light of Jesus! We must look for Christ's work in others' lives.

If there is anything praiseworthy or virtuous, we must intently ponder these things. We will see our God's glorious and powerful workings if we look at the valorous things He is doing.

~~~~~

### How Can We Add Virtue To Our Faith?

*"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."*

(Romans 10:17)

One straightforward method for adding to our faith is to diligently read, study, and meditate upon the Word of God. Faith comes via Scripture. If we prayerfully align ourselves with the Bible, we will grow in **virtue!**

*"And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him **deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.**" (Luke 9:23)*

**DIE TO SELF** is another critical way to add **virtue** to our faith. As stated in Luke 9:23, we must take up our cross daily. As we recognize ourselves as having been crucified with Christ daily, we increasingly manifest His Life in us. Adding **virtue** to our faith is allowing Jesus to live through us more and more.

In the realm of earthly ministry, John the Baptist said it this way...

*"He must increase, but I must decrease."*  
(John 3:30)

Adding **virtue** to our faith happens when we DECREASE, and people see less of us. In that way, we make room for Jesus to INCREASE visibly in our lives, and people will see more of Him.

~~~~~

Conclusion:

The desired result is a life diligently desiring Jesus! As believers, we have Jesus dwelling in us by the Holy Spirit. But how much of our lives does Jesus have? Dying to our selfish ways and desires and surrendering to His perfect plans is the way to add **virtue** to our faith.

Our faith says, "I need a Savior!"

Adding **virtue** says, "I want my life to point to Christ!"

Transformed Living Messages by Robert Dallmann
ChristLife
PO Box 1033, Niagara Falls, NY 14304
Ph: (716) 622-7320
E-mail: Christlife@Christ-like.net
Visit us at www.Christ-like.net



By: Robert Dallmann

~~~~~

*"According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to **glory and virtue:** (4) Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. (5) And beside this, giving all diligence, **add to your faith virtue;** and to **virtue knowledge;**"*  
(2 Peter 1:3-5)

~~~~~

Add To Your Faith

First, we must ponder what it means to "ADD" to our faith. How do we accomplish "ADDING" to our faith? I thought Jesus did it all; what can we "ADD?"

Let's begin by saying that the Word of God commands us to ADD various characteristics to our faith; therefore, we will make NO effort to say that we cannot ADD anything,

ADD TO FAITH PART 1 - VIRTUE

since we have been told to!

"**Giving**" means to simultaneously introduce. "**Diligence**" is defined as speed, eagerness, and earnestness. Thus, "giving all diligence" tends towards earnestly and speedily seeking to introduce additions to our faith. God's grace and faith in Christ are so powerful that we are enabled to ADD to our faith that which we are commanded to ADD.

Diligence is not a rare theme in Scripture. This passage shows that God rewards those who diligently seek Him.

*"But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is and that he is a **rewarder of them that diligently seek him.**"*
(Hebrews 11:6)

Adding to our faith... requires faith! Without faith, it is impossible to please God; anything we ADD to our faith must be added in faith. Essentially, because of God's grace, accessed through faith, God empowers us to add to our faith. God rewards our diligence in seeking deeper intimacy with Him.

*"By whom also we have **access by faith into this grace** wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God."* (Romans 5:2)

~~~~~

### Add VIRTUE

The first thing we are told to add to our faith

is virtue.

Virtue is defined as "...manliness (valor), i.e., excellence..." (Strong's Concordance G703) Associated concepts include virtuous thoughts, feelings, actions, moral excellence, modesty, purity, etc.

*"There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is **neither male nor female:** for ye are all one in Christ Jesus."*  
(Galatians 3:28)

We see that in Christ, there is neither male nor female regarding salvation, and this is an addition to our saving faith; the definition of "manliness" does not preclude women. All believers are instructed to add virtue to their faith. Each of us should have a goal of exemplifying valorous lives. Valor includes being brave, valiant, and courageous, and we all need valor to live godly in this turbulent world.

Scripture promises that we who choose to live godly will suffer persecution.

*"Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution."*  
(2 Timothy 3:12)

Decide that you will live courageously in moral excellence!

~~~~~

Other Scriptures

Aside from these references in 2 Peter chapter 1, this Greek word is used only in two other passages. Paul uses it once, and Peter uses it in his first epistle. Here are these verses.

*"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the **PRAISES** of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:"*
(1 Peter 2:9)

*"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any **VIRTUE**, and if there be any praise, think on these things."*
(Philippians 4:8)

Although these are the only other places in Scripture where this Greek word is used, we can learn much from these references.

In 1 Peter 2:9, the word is translated as PRAISES, and, of course, it is in reference to praising God. We are told to proclaim the VIRTUE (praises) of God, Who has done wonderful things for us. We no longer live in DARKNESS, but God has brought us into His glorious light. We extol God's virtue because of Who He is and what He is capable of. He made us a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, and a peculiar (special) people.

We add virtue to our faith by living in a way that demonstrates the glory of God! Showing God's virtue in our lives exposes the world to the power of God to radically change people.

Paul uses this same Greek word in the context of what believers should focus on.