

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED AND STAY SAVED?

By: PHILLIP HAYES

Our title contains two questions that have been asked by literally millions of people. "What must I do to be saved and what must I do to stay saved?" I believe these two questions are the most important anyone could possibly be asked. Even more important is the answer! Are we receiving the correct reply? I realize there are some people that believe when you are once saved you will always be saved. Therefore, they would say that not matter your relationship with God at your demise, there is no need for the second question as you are eternally saved (once saved - always saved teaching).

In order to answer these two questions correctly we will set aside all the traditions and teachings of denominations and rely solely on the Word of God.

What must I do to be saved? The Bible is clear that our salvation begins by believing. Two of the most commonly quoted verses in the whole Bible are: *"And brought them out, and said, Sirs,*

what must I do to be saved? And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house [Acts 16: 30-31]. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" [St. John 3:16]. These few verses declare a fact that cannot be disputed in which God requires all of humanity to believe in One Person in order for them to have everlasting life. That one person is the Lord Jesus Christ.

Believing qualifies us for salvation! This is our first step. In order for one to believe on Jesus or in Jesus, we must know something about Him. Obviously we need to know what we should believe concerning Jesus Christ.

First and foremost, the Bible teaches us that Jesus is the only begotten Son of the Living God (St. John 3:16; 3:18; 1John 4:9). We must believe Jesus was conceived of the Holy Ghost and born of the Virgin Mary (See Luke chapter one and Matthew chapter one).

Secondly, Jesus died for your sins and was raised from the dead. I quote the Apostle Paul, *"Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I*

delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures” [1Corinthians 15:1-4].

Thirdly, we must believe Jesus is the only way to God the Father. Jesus testified of Himself and said, “. . . *I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me” [John 14:6].* Apostle John wrote, “*He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him” [John 3:36].*

The Apostle Peter verifies this with the following statement, “*Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved” [Acts 4:12].* According to the New Testament Apostles and Jesus Himself, for one to be saved, he or she must believe that Jesus is the Son of God and the only way to God or else they have all lied, suffered and died in vain

Now we know we must first believe! To further prove what you must believe about Jesus; take a look at these verses of scripture. The entire Gospel of St. John was written for one purpose and that purpose is that you might believe that Jesus is the Son of God! St. John 20:31 says, “*But these*

are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name”.

Further, the Apostle John is very bold with these statements found in his first epistle. “Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God.” [1Jonn 4:15]. “Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?” [1John 5:5]. And again in the 5th chapter, “He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son. And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God” [1John 5:10-13].

Truly, the scriptures literally scream that Jesus is The Son of God! This is what YOU MUST BELIEVE! So simply that a child can understand! Perhaps you have left this truth and have come to believe something very different about Jesus. “But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be

corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ” [2Corinthians 11:3]. Salvation is not complicated! It is clearly revealed in the scriptures for all to see.

We have found the Bible is very clear that we must first believe on Jesus in order to qualify for eternal life. Remember, believing on Jesus is the first step. I am going to assume that you now believe what the Bible says about Jesus. You are now a believer!

Now, is there more we must do in order to be saved? I said this was the first step. Is simply believing Jesus is the Son of God enough for us to enter the gates of Heaven?

There are multitudes of people that believe they will be saved because they believe there is a God. However the Bible is also clear about this mindset. *“Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble” James 2:19].* Yes, the devils believe there is a God but that does not merit them salvation.

We know the devils also believe that Jesus is the Son of God! Look at these verses for our proof: *“And unclean spirits, when they saw him, fell down before him, and cried, saying, Thou art the Son of God. [Mark 3:11]. And, behold, they cried out, saying, What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God? art thou come hither to torment us before the time? [Matthew 8:29]. And*

devils also came out of many, crying out, and saying, Thou art Christ the Son of God. And he rebuking them suffered them not to speak: for they knew that he was Christ" [Luke 4:41].

We now understand by the scriptures that the devils believe there is One God and they also believe Jesus is the Son of God. We also know, the devil and his angels will be cast into a lake of fire (Mat. 25:41; Rev. 20:10). Simply knowing there is One God and believing Jesus is the Son of God is not sufficient for salvation. They will certainly not be saved!

So, what is the next step?

To discover the Truth about what one must do to be saved, let's take a look at some of the verbatim preaching of the Apostles of our Lord. Certainly, they would know the Truth as the Lord Jesus personally taught them!

I want you to take a closer look at the scripture I gave you in the Book of Acts chapter sixteen. It is quoted often as the way to be saved. *"And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house [Acts 16: 30-31].*

In this passage, Apostle Paul is preaching to the jailer and his household in Macedonia. God had given Paul and Silas a great deliverance from prison with a supernatural earthquake and the

jailer was astonished at this miracle and wanted to be saved.

The jailer asks, "What must I do to be saved?" Paul stated in verse 31 what he must first do, *"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house."*

Paul has not finished his message. Verse 31 was just his introduction. He continues to instruct this man and his household with the following words, *"And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house" (Verse 32)*. Paul and Silas preached the "Word of The Lord" to the man and all that were in the house! In other words, they began to teach them what they should believe about the Lord Jesus Christ. These people had probably never heard of Jesus! What were they supposed to believe about Him? For them to be believers, they had to be taught!

After revealing to them the good news of the Gospel and what they must believe to be saved, Paul completed his message by baptizing them the same hour of the night! *"And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway" [Acts 16:32-33]*.

Now friends, you know water baptism is something that is rarely mentioned in the preaching of the Gospel today. As a matter of fact water baptism is actually fought against by

modern ministries as not important or necessary to be saved.

Obviously, Paul and Silas thought it extremely important for them to baptize these people. They didn't wait until the next day! They baptized all the people the very same hour of the night.

We find there is an obedience that is required when the truth of the Gospel is preached. Paul had preached to the people in Macedonia and they had obeyed his preaching by believing and being baptized in water. The Book of Romans lets us know this. *"But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you"* [Romans 6:17].

So then we find one must first believe and then we must obey the Word of God.

Let's take a look at the very first Gospel message ever preached. I believe you will see a pattern that was set forth in the beginning that Apostle Paul was following years later in Macedonia.

It all begins after the resurrection and ascension to Heaven of the Lord Jesus. Jesus had instructed His disciples to wait on the promise of the Father which was the baptism of the Holy Ghost.

When the Day of Pentecost was fully come, the Holy Spirit fell on all those that were gathered together. The fire of the Holy Spirit filled the place they were sitting and they were all filled with the Spirit and spoke in tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

This all caused a great commotion in the area. There were thousands gathered in Jerusalem for the feast of Pentecost. When they heard and saw what had happened, they began to ask what was going on. As the other Apostles stood with him, Apostle Peter preached the very first Gospel message. You can read that first Gospel message in Acts chapter 2, verses 14-40.

After hearing the preaching of the Gospel, the people wanted to be saved and they began asking the Apostles what they should do. Let's begin reading from the Book of Acts, chapter two, verse 37 where they asked this question, "What must we do?" *"Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart", and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?*

The Word of God Had penetrated their hearts and they desperately wanted to know what they should do! *"Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost"* (verse

38). Now we are seeing more clearly God's great plan for the salvation of mankind.

First, God requires mankind to believe that He sent His only Son to save mankind by offering Himself for the sins of the world. Then, we must obey from our hearts that form of doctrine (teaching) which was delivered to us (See Romans 6:17).

Looking throughout the scriptures we find God's ministers preaching repentance. John the Baptist began his ministry with a cry of repentance. Likewise Jesus began His ministry the same with a command to repent. When Jesus sent His disciples to preach the Kingdom throughout Israel, they preached that men should repent. Jesus was so forceful in His preaching of repentance He declared, *"I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish"* [Luke 13:5]. The Apostle Paul was quoted in Acts chapter 17, verse 30, *"And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent"*. No wonder the very first Gospel message also demanded repentance! Peter commanded the people to repent!

Yes my friend, God loves you! Jesus loves you, but they command you to repent!

First, we believe. Secondly, we obey by repenting of our sins. That's two very important steps everyone must take.

There is yet a third step we must obey. This final step is the one the devil hates the most as it completes the Divine Plan of God! Peter commanded that they should also be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. He declared that our obedience would lead to two wonderful things that would happen in our lives. One, we would receive remission or forgiveness of our sins. Two, we would receive the gift of the Holy Ghost!

In verse 39 the Apostle Peter sealed this great plan of salvation with a promise. *"For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call"*. The Gospel command and the promises are for everyone the Lord our God shall call!

I hope you see how Amazing the wisdom of God is. He has given us His Divine plan of salvation so clear to understand that a child could not misunderstand it. We Believe. We Repent. We are Baptized, and then We Receive!

There is only one gospel message! One faith! One way! God doesn't have several plans of salvation; there is only one.

Many will no doubt say I am preaching we are saved by works and not by Grace. The truth is, I have declared unto you what THE APOSTLES explicitly preached and that is all. As for being saved by Grace alone I must remind the reader

that we are saved by Grace THROUGH FAITH (By Believing) (Eph. 2:8). And faith without works is dead being alone (James 2:20; 2:26).

I realize some of you that read this article may have difficulty believing you must be baptized in water in the Name of Jesus Christ as you may have been taught the opposite. I would like for you to consider these three scriptural reasons we should be water baptized.

(1) For the remission or forgiveness of sins: *"Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost"* [Acts 2:38]. Remember, Peter had the keys to the kingdom. The keys were: (a) repent and (b) be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. If you obeyed these two commands, you would receive the Holy Ghost.

(2) To fulfill all righteousness: *"And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him. And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him"* [Matthew 3:15-16]. Bible scholars tell us Jesus walked 70 miles to be baptized in water by John! If He thought it was that important why belittle its importance today?

(3) For a good conscience: *"Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water. The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ" [1Peter 3:20-21].* The Apostle Peter is very bold and says emphatically that water baptism also saves us and will give us a clear conscience toward God! If for no other reason than these three, everyone not only should be baptized, *they must!*

Jesus said, ". . . And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned" [Mark 16:15-16]. Look closely at what our Lord said in these two verses. The emphasis here is on "He" or the person that believes. "He" that believes. And, "He" that is baptized. In other words, it is what the person does that qualifies him for eternal life.

First, he believes, then, he is baptized. Some have misinterpreted this scripture to mean that a person believes then he receives the baptism of the Spirit. It should be clear that our Lord's emphasis is on the person and what he does

and not on the working of the Spirit. He believes and then he gets baptized. You cannot baptize yourself with the Holy Spirit! But, you can be baptized in water.

Think about this my friend, the scripture says, *"And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone" [Ephesians 2:20].* Do you realize if the early apostles and prophets were wrong in their teaching, the very foundation of the gospel we have believed is faulty! And if our faith is not built upon their teachings we very well may be lost.

**NOW THAT I AM SAVED,
WHAT MUST I DO TO STAY SAVED?**

The next portion of this message is for those of you that are now saved. You are a believer and you have obeyed that form of doctrine that was delivered to you (Romans 6:17). God has forgiven you of your sins! You are saved and on your way to Heaven! You have the Blessed Assurance from God if you died tonight, Heaven would be your home. You are highly favored of God and blessed! What an honor to be in the family of God! Praise God!

I hope you have found a good Bible believing church to attend and you have become an active part of their local assembly. I highly recommend

you attend church faithfully as this is the first step to take in "Staying Saved". The scripture commands us to, *"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching"* [Hebrews 10:25].

There is no alternative. We must gather together with like-minded Born Again Christians in order for us to be blessed and to be a blessing to others. We gain strength from the preaching of God's Word, praise and worship with other believers and from one another. One of Satan's devises is to keep God's people from gathering together! He knows it is much easier to defeat you when you are alone. Being faithful has its rewards!

I know finding a good church is not always possible. If you live in a remote area your choices are very limited. However, you might find a church several miles away from your home that you could attend at least periodically and become a part of their fellowship. Better to attend every few weeks than not attend at all! Also, you might find a ministry that is involved in evangelism and missionary work that you could support with your prayers and finances. Being a faithful partner with any ministry that is being obedient to the Great Commission is very rewarding. There is no greater calling than to evangelize the world for Jesus!

What a blessing it is to be a partner with such a ministry. Stay active! Get involved with others that love Jesus.

Maybe you are home bound because of transportation problems, health issues, financial problems or some other issue. What can you do? Have a Home Bible Study or Prayer Service in your home! Invite your friends, neighbors and relatives to come. You may be surprised who might show up! Believe me, staying active in the Gospel will keep you saved. It keeps your inner man stirred up.

Of course daily prayer and reading the scriptures can never be omitted. A daily commitment and walk with God will strengthen you. Jesus said, *"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]. Apostle Paul said, *"I protest by your rejoicing which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily"* [1Corinthians 15:31]. We are exhorted to, *". . . put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof"* [Romans 13:14]. And if we are to stand against the devil, we must, *"Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil"* [Ephesians 6:11].

We see our walk with God is a daily walk, not

just a stroll through Sunday morning! Serving God is a daily giving of self to God. You might think I am making it hard for you to "Stay Saved" but what seems to be hard is really very easy when you love the Lord with all your heart.

Think about your life in the Kingdom this way. When you do your best to please and serve God, He gives you the strength and comfort that He is holding you up every step of the way. He loves you so much that He gave you His Holy Spirit to lead you and guide you and show you things to come. As a matter of fact the Holy Spirit is praying to the Father for you concerning things you don't even know to pray for. Wow! That's God's love!

God reveals to you that He is able to keep you from falling! Yes He is! *"Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy" [Jude 1:24].* Not only that, God has sealed you with His Holy Spirit! *"And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption: [Ephesians 4:30].* God is good!

Never forget, *"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast" [Ephesians 2:8-9].* God has saved you my

friend and no man can pluck you out of His hand! *"My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand"* [John 10:29]. With these great promises we can trust that God is going to finish the work He started in us. We just need to cooperate with Him!

We cooperate by obeying His Word. Here is how Jude said we should cooperate with God: *"Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life"* [Jude 1:21]. Again, his advice should be taken with joy, *"But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost"* [Jude 1:20].

This is the way I like to look at a good relationship with God. James said, *"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded"* [James 4:7-8].

Obey these two verses and you will for sure keep yourself saved! First submit or give yourself to God. Then, Resist the devil and he will run from you! Praise God! Don't you see? The devil is afraid of any man or woman of God that will obey the scriptures! You have the power to put old

Satan on the run. Use it every day!

Then, draw nigh (close) to God and He will draw close to you. Cleanse your hands, purify your heart and don't be double minded. This is taking up your cross! You are now entering a relationship with God that nothing can stand before you!

Sometimes we sing a little song that says, "I'm saved and I know that I am, "I'm saved and I know that I am". Then we will change it up a little and sing, "I'm blessed and I know that I am, I'm blessed and I know that I am." And so on . . .

What a joy it is to know that I am saved, I am blessed, I am healed and I am on my way to Heaven. What a joy it is to know that through all my doubts, fears, faults, failures and sins, He still loves me and I am still in the race. Praise His Holy Name!

Yes, we are in a race and in a fight, but I know if I just keep running and fighting I will win and so will you! I urge you, *"Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses"* [1Timothy 6:12]. If you know Jesus, you are a winner!

One thing that will keep you saved is by discovering who you are in Christ. The reason I use the word discover is many Christians haven't a

clue as to the power and authority that God has imparted to them. Multitudes of Christians seek after ministers that have the "signs" following them. This is a gross error! Few realize that the "signs" should be following them! Believers are not supposed to be following signs; the signs are supposed to be following them! Jesus said, *"And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover"* [Mark 16:17-18]. Jesus said these signs would follow them that believe! If you are a believer in Jesus, these signs should be following you. You should be casting out devils and healing the sick!

God has a fantastic plan for your life! Look at what God has ordained for His people, *"And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ"* [Ephesians 4:11-13]. God is working through His ministers to bring us to perfection, unto the measure and stature of the

fullness of Jesus Christ! We are going to be like Him! Just knowing the great call and plan of God for your life will keep you saved. I don't want to miss out on what God has for me and I am sure you don't either.

I pray the Lord will open your understanding as to what the hope of His calling is for you (See Eph. 1:18).

We are saved by Grace through faith so our faith has saved us. Thank you Jesus for salvation that is not earned but is the free gift of God! The Apostle Peter in his Second Epistle gave us some great instructions on how to stay saved. He said we should add to our faith! As a matter of fact, he said if we added to our faith, we would never fall! This is what we are searching for; more apostolic advise on how to "Stay Saved".

Let's go now to Second Peter and see just what we should do in order to never fall. I have added "bold" print to the phrases and words that we will examine closer.

"Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ: Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, 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**: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be **partakers of the divine nature, (GODLY CHARACTER)** having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. And beside this, giving all diligence, **add to your faith virtue**; and to virtue **knowledge**; And to knowledge **temperance**; and to temperance **patience**; and to patience **godliness**; And to godliness brotherly **kindness**; and to brotherly kindness **charity**. For **if these things be in you, and abound**, they make **you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful** in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. **But he that lacketh these things** is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: **for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall**: For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly **into the everlasting kingdom** of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Wherefore I will not be negligent to **put you always in remembrance of these things**, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth. Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle, **to stir you up by putting you in**

remembrance; *Knowing that shortly I must put off this my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath shewed me. Moreover I will endeavour that ye may be able after my decease **to have these things always in remembrance**" [2Peter 1:1-15].*

The great Apostle Peter ends his instructions by letting the reader know that he is about to give his life for Christ and the Gospel. As this will be his last letter to the church he wanted to leave a word with them that would help secure their salvation and hope they had in Christ. Three times he emphasized that he wrote, he wanted them to remember: *"To have these things always in remembrance."* This was to prepare them for entrance into "the everlasting kingdom". Therefore this epistle is extremely important and every born again believer should pay close attention to it.

Peter begins his epistle by exhorting the church. He states that those who have obtained like precious faith (Christians) have been called to glory and virtue and they can be partakers of the divine nature.

We are called to Glory. The word Glory is defined as honor, splendor, dignity, praise, worship. We are called to praise and worship!

We are called to Virtue. The word Virtue

means moral power; to be holy. To partake of the Divine Nature is to put on the character of God.

That's our calling dear ones. Glory, Virtue and partaking of the Divine Nature. By adding to our faith we will express His divine character in our lives!

He then reveals how we can add to our faith which will secure our great calling. He gives us 7 areas that we should add to our faith. These 7 reflect your relationship with God and with people.

They are: Virtue, Knowledge, Temperance, Patience, Godliness, Kindness and Charity.

To make sure we understand just what the Apostle Peter is communicating to us, let's look at each one of these seven and their definition.

(1) We must have "Virtue". Virtue is defined as moral power, excellence, and holy. When one thinks of virtue, the word virtuous comes to mind which is to be pure with high moral standards. We are to be Christ-like. Also, the Greek word in which the word virtue is translated in this passage mean "Praise". We must strive to be virtuous in our lives and in our praise and worship to God. We should praise our God from a heart of adulation and love for Him for all He has done for us and not just because it's "praise and worship time".

(2) We must have "Knowledge".

Knowledge comes to us in various ways. The most obvious is from study and life experiences. We can acquire knowledge by learning. Your greatest source of knowledge is your Bible. You should reserve time for reading and the study of God's Word regularly. Knowledge is also imparted to us supernaturally. The Holy Spirit is our teacher. Jesus said, *"Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come"* [John 16:13].

The word knowledge is defined this way: "Recognition, full discernment, acknowledge, to become fully acquainted with". I love these definitions when I apply them to our relationship with the Lord! We are to be fully acquainted with Him! Fully discerning Him! We must know Him!

This scripture comes to mind, *"That the communication of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus"* [Philemon 1:6]. We must come to the knowledge that our faith will become effective when we acknowledge that God has given us every good thing and it is in us! Knowledge will keep us from falling!

(3) We must have "Temperance".

Temperance is self control. Christians in many

countries including America have little control over their impulses. They are impulsive buyers. Most take little thought about what they are purchasing. They just believe all the hype advertisers have told them about their product and they want it now! Afterward, they experience what is now known as "buyer's remorse"! They find, they didn't really need it or want it! They have little temperance. We need temperance in every aspect of our lives. Obviously living a temperate life should help you control your temper. Too many good people have been deeply hurt because of unkind words that were spoken out of anger. Practicing temperance will help us to think before we speak or act. Learn to measure your words. Also being temperate will empower you to control all your physical appetites. You might even lose that weight you have been wanting to lose!

(4) We must have "Patience". I think most of you would say that you need patience. Being impatient leads to many hurtful situations. "If I had just waited a little while longer, this wouldn't have happened". Sounds familiar doesn't it! We have all experienced the consequence of not being patient. I am sure you have heard of the patience of Job. Patience is also attributed to Abraham the father of faith, *"And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise"* [Hebrews 5:15]. Patience is endurance. We must endure unto the end. Patience is constancy and perseverance in serving our Lord in spite of

opposition, ridicule or persecution.

Jesus said, *"In your patience possess ye your souls"* [Luke 21:19]. As children of God we are tempted and tried by many things in our walk with the Lord. We must allow patience to work in our lives as it enables us to be victorious. *"Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing"* [James 1:3-4]. Patience will bring you to perfection.

James exhorts us to be patient as we wait on the second return of the Lord Jesus. *"Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh"* [James 5:7-8].

(5) We must have "Godliness". Apostle Paul writes, *"But godliness with contentment is great gain"* [1Timothy 6:6]. The Greek word for godliness according to Strong's concordance is, *eusebeia* which is defined; *piety; godliness, holiness*. To be *pious* towards God would be to worship God, or to be pious towards parents or those in authority would be respect. Godliness is the "state of purity and holiness". It means we are

to be pure and set apart from others. Godliness also means sanctification.

Therefore we are to live holy lives. God has called us to holiness. *"For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness"* [1Thessalonians 4:7]. This call of holiness must never be overlooked or set aside as if it were a carnal commandment of men. I am aware of many Christians that ridicule any semblance of living a holiness lifestyle. But the Bible tells us to, *"Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord"* [Hebrews 12:14].

God's commandments are not suggestions! When attempting to persuade men and women to live godly and holy lives many will justify their ungodly lifestyles by saying, "I'm saved by grace and not by works." Well, if they were truly saved by God's amazing Grace they would know that the same Grace that saved them also teaches them to live holy! *"For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ"* [Titus 2:11-13]. Let me say here my friend, "You cannot live too close to

God”!

(6) We must have “Kindness”. Truly God has been very kind to all of humanity. Not only that but He has promised to be kind to us in the future. *“That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus” [Ephesians 2:7].*

To be kind is to display brotherly love, fondness and affection. It is having moral excellence in character and demeanor. It is being good and gentle to those around us.

I have seen so many mean-spirited men and women that confessed they were Christians but acted as if they hated everyone. Never having a kind word to say to anyone. There is no excuse to be mean and abusive to others. Being kind to others should be one of the easiest of these seven to obey! *“And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you” [Ephesians 4:32].*

(7) We must have “Charity”. Charity is taken from the Greek word “Agape” which is the love that God has. This kind of love ENABLES US TO LOVE OUR ENEMIES. It is not an emotional human love but a godly love. It empowers you to love someone that doesn’t love you. It is an unfeigned love, loving without being loved; loving

unconditionally. It is "Calvary's Love"!

The Bible says we must follow after or pursue charity! *"Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy" [1Corinthians 14:1].* Many Christians desire to have more faith and we certainly need more. However, the greatest gift we could possibly acquire is charity. *"And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity" [1Corinthians 13:13].* Remember, this kind of love will cover a multitude of sins. *"And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins" [1Peter 4:8].* We need charity!

The Apostle Peter said if you applied these seven things in your life you would never fall. Therefore adding these qualities to your faith will keep you saved and enable you to achieve the purpose of God for your life.

God has given us His Son, His Holy Spirit and His Word to teach us, guide us and keep us. Be encouraged my friends! *"Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses"*
[1Timothy 6:12].

