

Faith and Self-Control

June 9, 2024

2 Peter 1:5-8, *“In view of all this, make every effort to respond to God’s promises. Supplement your faith with a generous provision of moral excellence, and moral excellence with knowledge,⁶ and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with patient endurance, and patient endurance with godliness,⁷ and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love for everyone.⁸ The more you grow like this, the more productive (fruitful) and useful you will be in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.”* (NLT)

Hebrews 11:1, *“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”*

1 John 5:3, *“This is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.”*

John 14:15, *“If you love Me (Jesus), you will keep My (Jesus’) commandments.”*

James 1:19-22, *“Everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger;²⁰ for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God.²¹ Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls.²² But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.”*

Three Key Areas of Self-Control:

1. The Mind

Proverbs 18:13, *“He who gives an answer before he hears, it is foolishness and shame to him.”*

Proverbs 18:13, *“Spouting off before listening to the facts is both shameful and foolish.”* (NLT)

2. Our Words

James 3:6, *“The tongue defiles the entire body, and sets on fire the course of our life, and is set on fire by hell.”*

Psalms 141:3-4, *“Set a guard, O Lord, over my mouth; keep watch over the door of my lips. ⁴ Do not incline my heart to any evil thing, to practice deeds of wickedness.”*

3. Our Actions

Luke 8:11, *“The seed is the word of God.”*

Romans 8:12-14, *“Brethren, we are under obligation, ¹³ if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons (and daughters) of God.”*

Self-Control: true mastery from within that can only be accomplished by the power of the Lord.

1 Corinthians 2:14, 16, *“A natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised. But we have the mind of Christ.”*

Mark 12:30, *“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.”*