

Add to Your Faith – Virtue II Pet. 1:5-8

Introduction:

There are two main meanings of the original Greek word. The first is to live a good moral life. The second is that of a battle that we are in with evil. Today, we will look at both meanings of the word.

Gr. “arête” (ar-et'-ay) – translated “virtue” and “praise.”

- I. God has always wanted His people to live a good moral life towards Him.
 - A. From the beginning, God commanded His people to live a good, moral life.
 1. **Ex. 20:13-17**
 2. There are also several other places in the Law that God commands His people to live moral lives (**Lev. 19:1-37** and many others).
 - B. Notice the example that Jesus gives us.
 1. **Mk. 10:17-23**
 2. Jesus told the rich, young ruler to live a moral life and to follow God.
 3. We are all to live a moral life.
 - a. **Mt. 7:12** - *Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.*
 - b. **Mt. 22:39** - *And the second is like it: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”*
 - C. God tells us that we are special in His eyes, and we should live that way.
 1. **I Pet. 2:9** - *But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;*
 2. **I Pet. 1:16** - *because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy."*
 - D. We need to live good moral lives despite the evil that is around us.
 1. **I Jn 2:15-17** - *Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. {16} For all that is in the world-- the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life-- is not of the Father but is of the world. {17} And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.*
 2. **Rom. 12:2** - *And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*
 - E. God punished His people when they did not live moral lives.
 1. Notice how many times the judges of Israel had to bring the people out of a moral decline.
 2. **II Chr. 28:19** - *For the LORD brought Judah low because of Ahaz king of Israel, for he had encouraged moral decline in Judah and had been continually unfaithful to the LORD.*

- II. Notice the origin of the Greek word.
- A. The original Greek word (arête) comes from a military word.
 1. The military is used for one major purpose, to fight.
 2. The use of this word gives us the indication that we are in a fight.
 - B. Peter is using this word to signify that we are in a battle against evil.
 1. Eph. 6:10-17
 2. The battle that we are in is one of good against evil.
 3. We constantly fight Satan.
 - C. Paul tells us in other places that we need to be prepared to fight.
 1. I Tim 6:12 - Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.
 2. II Tim 4:7 - I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.
 - D. It takes great courage to have this kind of virtue and fight the good fight.
 1. Notice some example that we have preserved for us.
 - a. Abraham – Heb. 11:8
 - b. Moses – Heb. 11:24-27
 - c. Daniel
 - 1) Dan. 6:10 - Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days.
 - 2) Daniel also had to have great courage to face the lion's den.
 - d. Joshua
 - 1) Deut. 31:6-7 - Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the LORD your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you. {7} Then Moses called Joshua and said to him in the sight of all Israel, "Be strong and of good courage, for you must go with this people to the land which the LORD has sworn to their fathers to give them, and you shall cause them to inherit it.
 - 2) Josh. 1:6 - Be strong and of good courage, for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them.
 - e. Others – Heb. 11:32-38
 - f. Especially Christ and His sufferings before His death.
 - E. We, today, must have courage to live like we are supposed to for God.
 1. We must have courage to confess our faith.
 2. We must have courage to live our faith.
 3. It takes courage to resist temptation.

4. It takes courage to say “no” when the world says “yes.”
5. It takes courage to say “yes” when the world says “no.”
6. It takes courage to ask for forgiveness from others and confess sins.
7. It takes courage to forgive others.

Conclusion:

Today, we must not only live a good moral life, but we must also have the courage to fight against Satan and the evil around us. Are you fighting the fight with courage? Are you living faithfully to Christ every day? Do you have the courage to stand up against Satan?