



**Virtue**

**2 Pet. 1:5**



# Introduction

- **The word virtue has basically two different meanings**
- **1. Moral excellence**
- **Phil. 4:8**
- **2 Pet. 1:3**



# Introduction

- 2. In 2 Pet. 1:5 Virtue means **“moral or spiritual courage”**
- **“Moral courage, the natural fruit of a trusting faith in God.” B.W. Johnson**
- **“Manliness in the Christian sense is the kind introduced by Jesus Christ.” James Meadows**



# Introduction

- **Moral and spiritual courage comes into one's life through faith**
- **Virtue is faith's first test**
- **“Possessing virtue the Christian can then add the other great Christ-like characteristics.”**



# Some Who Did Not Show Moral Courage

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- Peter and Mark are two men who at one point lacked moral courage and latter showed they had it
- Peter denied Jesus three times
- Peter later showed great courage
- Acts 4:19

Virtue



# Some Who Did Not Show Moral Courage

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- John Mark turned back on a missionary journey
- Acts 13:13
- 2 Tim. 4:11



# Some Who Did Have Moral <sup>7</sup> Courage

- Joseph
- Moses
- Heb. 11:23-27
- Joshua and Caleb
- David—fought a lion, a bear and a giant



# Some Who Did Have Moral <sup>8</sup> Courage

- The greatest example of moral courage was that of Jesus himself
- He had the moral courage to lay down his life and this he did willingly
- He trusted in God the Father for the outcome
- Heb. 2:13 “I will put my trust in him”





## Lessons For US

- **Moral courage is not acting without fear but in spite of it**
- **Among the forms of courage, virtue is different because it is brought about by our trust in God**



## Lessons For US

- We can develop courage to the point that we courageously face that which we fear----virtue is a growing thing!



# Lessons For US

- **We grow in virtue by:**
  - **1. Letting our faith grow**
  - **2. By doing what God commands us to do regardless of the consequences**
  - **3. By consistent prayer to the Father**



## Lessons For US

- **Christ challenges every Christian today to add to his faith moral courage**
- **The Christian business man can be courageous by being honest and truthful**



## Lessons For US

- **The Christian young person needs moral courage to stand up against peer pressure—drug, sex, alcohol,**
- **The Christian wife and mother must have courage to stand up for what is right**



## Lessons For US

- **The Christian husband and father must have courage to lead the family in worship and service to God**
- **The preacher must have moral courage to preach the Truth, regardless of the consequences**
- **Elders must have moral courage in shepherding the flock**



## Conclusion

- If we desire to grow as Christians, we must seek God's help in growing in moral courage
- Let us add to our faith, virtue...