

August 16, 2017

“Goodness”

2 Peter 1: 5-7

I. What is Goodness?

The Greek word is *arête* and while rare in the New Testament, *arête* is used in secular Greek for the pinnacle of virtue. While the Holman Christian and Goodspeed translate the word as goodness, other translations use virtue (NEB, KJV, RSV), resolution (Moffat), moral character (Williams), moral excellence (NASB, NLT), and noble character (Weymouth).

A. Virtue: William Barclay calls this aspect ‘that virtue that makes a man a good citizen and friend; it is that virtue which makes him an expert in the technique of living well.’ (**The Letters of James and Peter**, William Barclay)

B. Moral courage: Goodness has also been understood as moral courage. The quality is an excellence and productivity in one’s spiritual life that is shown by the courage of one’s convictions.

C. Built upon faith: Faith represents our vertical relationship with God while goodness represents our horizontal relationships with others. True faith in God leads to an outward change in lifestyle.

II. How do we attain Goodness?

A. It is the next rung of the character ladder from saving faith. (Ephesians 2:8-10)

B. It is acquired as a fruit of the Holy Spirit. (Galatians 5:22-23)

C. It is demonstrated in the everyday moral choices of life (Ephesians 4: 22-32)

Put Away

- **Lying**
- **Unrestrained anger**
- **Stealing**
- **Words that tear down**
- **Malice**
- **Bitterness**

Instead practice

- **Truth** (25)
- **Kindness** (26, 32)
- **Hard work** (28)
- **Words that build up** (29)
- **Compassion** (31, 32)
- **Forgiveness** (31, 32)

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