Be Virtuous

Shawn Jeffries · 2 Peter 1:5–11

INTRODUCTION

- I've never heard a Christian say, Well, you know what I need more of? I need more virtue.
- Just like babies are supposed to grow, and just like puppies are supposed to grow and kittens are supposed to grow and plants are supposed to grow, Christians are supposed to grow.
- If we're going to be truly transformed as the people of God, then we must be virtuous.

1 What Is Virtue?

2 Peter 1:5; 1 Peter 2:9; 2 Peter 1:3

- It means noble. It means to have character that is righteous and excellent.
- Peter says in 2 Peter 1 and verse 5, add to your faith moral excellence.
- So that you may proclaim the virtue or the excellencies of him who's called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.
- Because God is excellent, as his children, as his people, we have been called to excellence.

2 Being Virtuous Requires Applying Scripture

1 Peter 2:11; Philippians 4:8; 1 Peter 2:12

- Simply put, being virtuous requires applying scripture.
- No, being virtuous requires doing the Bible. We gotta live the Bible.
- Virtuous people live pure lives. Virtuous people strive to live sexually pure lives.
- Virtuous people have pure speech, pure thoughts, and then they also have honorable relationships.
- We do that by treating people in the same way that Jesus treated people.

3 Being Virtuous Requires Moral Courage

1 Peter 4:3–5; Acts 5:29

- It requires a willingness to stand for what you know is right, even if that means people in the world are going to respond to you in a negative way.
- Joseph stood firm on God's standard for morality. Joseph refused to compromise what was right.
- They say we're not going to stop doing that. We obey God rather than men. They had moral courage.
- We got to have the courage to stand for what's right.

4 Virtue Impacts the World and Your Family

Matthew 5:16; 1 Peter 2:12; 1 Peter 3:1–4

- Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works and then do what? Glorify your Father who's in heaven.
- The Bible says our virtue may also cause some people to become curious.

- Virtue has the potential to impact the world, but not just the world. A person with virtue can also impact their family.
- She may be able to persuade her husband to become a Christian not by constantly nagging him every day.

5 How Do We Become Virtuous?

2 Timothy 3:16–17; James 1:22; Galatians 2:20

- The first thing we're going to have to do is we're going to have to seek it from the right standard.
- No, the right standard to acquire virtue is the Bible. It is the word of God.
- The second thing we got to do is we got to practice the Bible. It's not enough just to hear the Bible.
- When I say live unselfishly, I'm saying that we have to be willing to put the will of God before our own will.
- I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me.
- We also got to be willing to imitate the right people.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **Are you serving Jesus? Have you even begun the process of spiritual transformation by obeying the gospel?**

MY NOTES