Living Hope, a study of 2 Peter

Wk #31: Tenacious With God

2 Peter 1:1-7 NKJV

*Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ,*

*To those who have obtained likeprecious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:*

***2****Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord,****3****as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,****4****by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.*

***5****But also for this very reason,****giving all diligence****, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge,****6****to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness,****7****to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love.*

It is so very natural for most of us to see this list and try to address the list. Here are 8 things that we need to do so we focus on the 8 things.

The eight things are super important but I don't want you to look at these things like they are human qualities that we need to work on in our lives.

I want you to view these as great and precious promises or gifts that God has already made available to us through relationship because of our belief in the sacrifice of His Son, Jesus of Nazareth.

List the qualities:

* faith (trusting belief)
* virtue (moral character/goodness)
* knowledge (understanding/spiritual maturity)
* self-control (temperance/moderation)
* perseverance (patiently persisting)
* godliness (taking on the character traits of God)
* brotherly kindness (love for Christian brothers & sisters)
* love (agape: affection, good-will, benevolence, love)

This is not a sequential list of attributes to master one right after the other.

J.B. Phillips NT

***5-7****For this very reason* ***you must do your utmost from your side****, and see that your faith carries with it real goodness of life. Your goodness must be accompanied by knowledge, your knowledge by self-control, your self-control by the ability to endure. Your endurance too must always be accompanied by devotion to God; that in turn must have in it the quality of brotherliness, and your brotherliness must lead on to Christian love.*

"Giving all diligence"......Diligence or earnestness; to interest oneself most earnestly

"Make every effort"

Eugene Peterson..... So don’t lose a minute in building on what you’ve been given

It often seems that the majority of people view being hard headed or stubborn as a negative characteristic.

**stubborn**  [adjective](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/adjective)

1 a(1)**:**unreasonably or perversely unyielding **:**[MULISH](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/mulish)

(2)**:**justifiably unyielding **:**[RESOLUTE](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/resolute)

b**:**suggestive or typical of a strong stubborn nature

a *stubborn* jaw

2 **:**performed or carried on in an unyielding, [obstinate](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/obstinate), or persistent manner

*stubborn* effort

3 **:**difficult to handle, manage, or treat

a *stubborn* cold

4 **:**[LASTING](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/lasting#h1)

*stubborn* facts

Stubborn and hard headed can be applied in a negative connotation but it can also be applied in a positive connotation.

I am constantly challenging people to change how they apply their stubborn quality.

Apply it for positive not negative.

Apply it toward wisdom & godliness not sin & stupid.

Apply it to helping not hurting.

Apply it for pursuing God not serving yourself.

*"Being stubborn can be a good thing. Being stubborn can be a bad thing. It all depends on how you use it."*

Most of the amazing heroes of the Bible were stubborn people as they applied it by faith with God.

Let's use other words to help with the challenge today.

**relentless**  adjective

:showing or promising no abatement of severity, intensity, strength, or pace

**tenacious** adjective

2 a:persistent in maintaining, adhering to, or seeking something valued or desired

Explain the typical approach of the attributes being like "Trophies"

Explain the approach of "Tools" as opposed to "trophies"

Let's make a decision to be tenacious with God and these amazing gifts of His great and precious promises that are reflected through attributes of His character.