

Preparing for the Return of Jesus Christ

The Father's Call

For if you possess these qualities ***in increasing measure***, they will keep you from being ***ineffective and unproductive*** in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Peter 1:8

Think of each of these Godly qualities that we have been asked to develop and honestly assess how you are doing in each area. It will give you an idea of the areas that you need to focus on developing. Ask God to help you see where you stand in these areas. Qualities that are well developed are still capacities that we need to grow in as Peter instructed. These qualities are interconnected. Every quality effects and supports the others. Not surprisingly, these lists overlap and are consistent with other areas of instruction we will find throughout the Bible.

Eight Character Traits

2 Peter 1: 5-7

Faith: I believe and trust God to direct my life. I look to God as my sustainer. I am dependable. I am grounded in the Word of God.

Virtue/Goodness: I am not manipulative. People feel safe around me. I lift other people up. I put God first.

Knowledge: I study the Word of God to understand what God requires of me.

Self-control: I do all things in moderation. I have mastered my desires. I am sober and calm. I listen more than I talk.

Perseverance/Patience: I don't give up in difficult situations. I can see the best in others. I don't insist on my timing.

Godliness: I honor and reverence God and exercise His laws and principles in my life. I live a life that is pleasing to Him.

Kindness/Mutual Affection: I am able to act in the benefit of others even when they don't deserve it.

Love: (*see The Qualities of Love - 1 Corinthians 13*)

Fruits of the Spirit

Galatians 5:22-23

Love: *(see The Qualities of Love - 1 Corinthians 13)*

Joy: I have joy no matter what circumstances I find myself in. My happiness is not based on how my day is going. My strength comes from God.

Peace: I feel tranquil and content knowing that God is in charge. I have a sense of well-being.

Longsuffering: I am patient. I keep a godly perspective on the events in my life. I will wait on God even in my trials.

Kindness: I use my strength for the benefit of another. I take into consideration how the other person feels all the time. I lift others up.

Goodness: My life reflects the character of Jesus Christ. I am not selfish.

Faithfulness: I have submitted my life fully to God and believe that He is in control.

Gentleness: I am not harsh. I am generous with others. I am gracious. I am willing to forgive. I don't provoke others or have emotional outbursts.

Self-control: I am in control of my life and have submitted myself fully to God. I control my strengths and don't insist on my way.

The Qualities of Love

1 Corinthians 13

Patient: I create space for others. I allow time for others. I wait on God.

Kind: I use my strength for the benefit of another. I take into consideration how the other person feels all the time. I lift others up.

Does Not Envy: I am not threatened by others. I do not compare myself to others.

Does not Boast: I do not draw attention to myself or place my needs before those of others.

Not Proud: I do not disrespect others or look down on them. I am humble.

Does not behave rudely: I do not dishonor others.

The Qualities of Love *(continued)*

1 Corinthians 13

Does not seek its own: I put the needs of others first. I am not possessive, demanding, stubborn, or controlling. I submit to others.

Not easily angered: I am not given to emotional outbursts. I don't blame others. I am not easily offended.

Keeps no record of wrongs: I do not remind people of their past mistakes. I forgive. I do not humiliate others.

Does not delight in evil but rejoices in the truth: I look for people to do the right thing. I give people the benefit of the doubt.

Always protects: I protect other people. I don't criticize others in public. I go out of my way to protect another person's reputation.

Always trusts: I choose to trust others.

Always hopes: I have a positive outlook on life. I project hope in our future even when there is reason not to.

Always perseveres: I continue to love others even when there is reason not to.

Love never fails: I never give up.

Notes:

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. **Do what it says.**

James 1:22