

SUNGAI WAY-SUBANG METHODIST CHURCH

SERMON | 5 NOV 2023

2 PETER 1:5-8

CONFIRMING ONE'S CALLING *and* ELECTION

KOH CHIEN AUN



Confirming One's Calling and Election

2 Peter 1:5-8

Here and Now

- **EXTERNAL** Threats:
We **don't have** the
power to
control/decide
- **INTERNAL** Threats:
We **do have** the
power to do
something



#1 HOW DO WE PREPARE OURSELVES?

- Be prepared mentally for action
 - Be sober
 - Be holy in all our conduct
-

#2 HOW DO WE RESPOND IN TIMES OF SUFFERING

- Remember who we belong to
- Remember who is our living hope
- Remember who keeps us
- Remember the purpose of the suffering





2 Peter 1:5-8



2 Peter 1:5-8

For this very reason, make every effort to **supplement your faith** with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love.

For if these qualities are yours and are **increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.**



Faith

- **Faith needs to be grown**
- Faith alone saves; but risks being **ineffective or unfruitful or worse.** (see **Matthew 25:34-40; 1 Corinthians 16:13; James 2:18-24**)

Titus 3:8

The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, so that **those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works.**

These things are excellent and profitable for people.

**There is/can be no 'method'.
Christian Living is not a shortcut to heaven.
It's a lifelong journey and experience of a
relationship with God.**

2 Peter 1:5-8

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Virtue – Humility

Philippians 2:1-11

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. **Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.**



Virtue – Humility

Philippians 2:1-11

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though He was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. **And being found in human form, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.**



Virtue – Humility

Philippians 2:1-11

Therefore God has highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.



Humility

- Humility in practice is to put others before ourselves
- Humility is to entertain the idea that we might be sometimes wrong/we need to take a relook at things.

Knowledge/Wisdom

- **Spiritual – Know your Father and your heritage**

God's Word provides all you need for spiritual sustenance and more; it reconnects us to our Father in heaven. **Read it, learn it, remember it, live it.**

John 10:25-27

My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.



Knowledge/Wisdom

- **Worldly – Know the ways of the world.**

Matthew 10:16

Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.



Source: UN Ocha, 2023

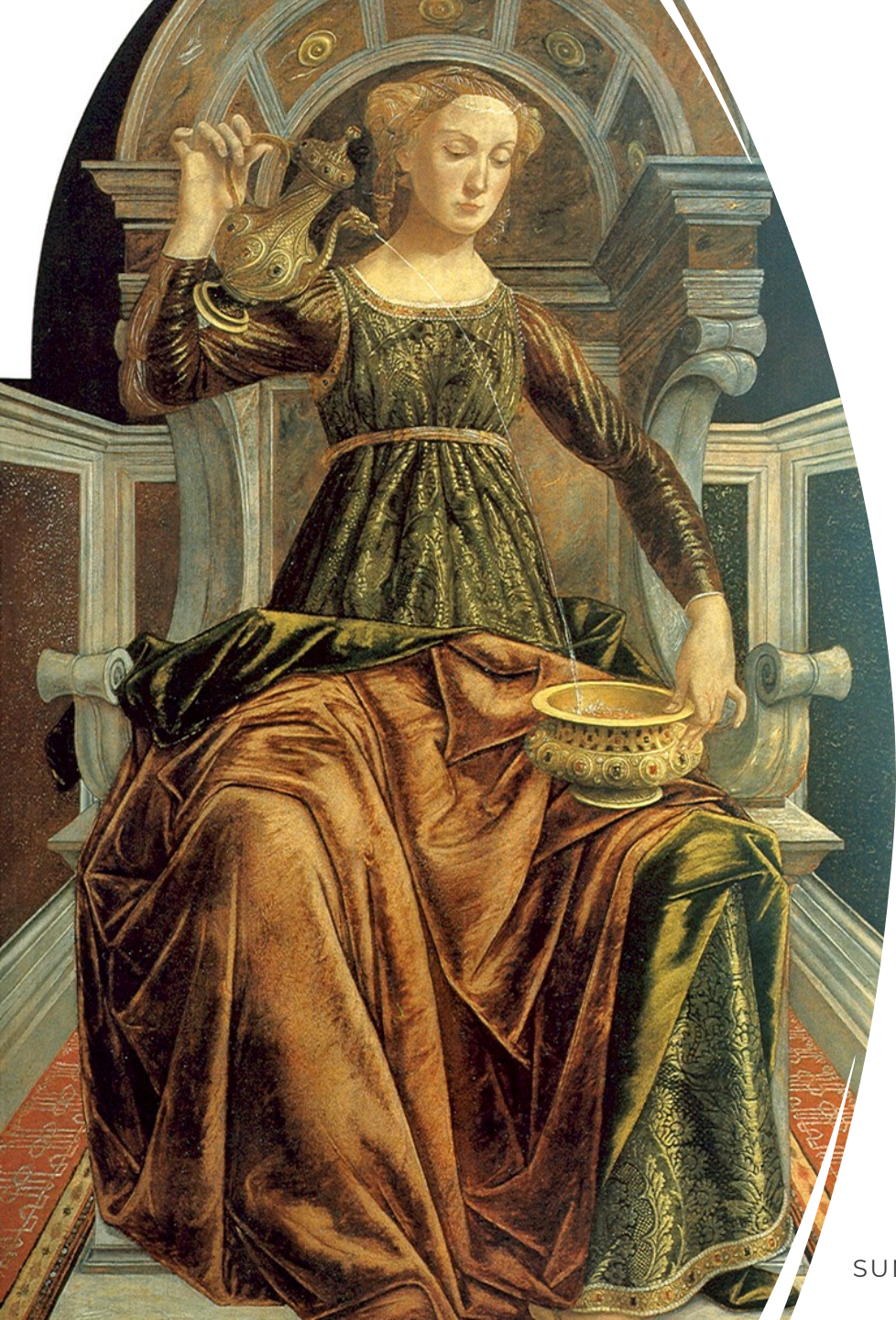




It is, of course, quite true that God will not love you any the less, or have less use for you, if you happen to have been born with a very second-rate brain.

He has room for people with very little sense, but He wants every one to use what sense they have.

Mere Christianity – C.S. Lewis



Self Control

Proverbs 25:28;

A man without self-control is like a city broken into and left without walls.

- **Book of Titus**
- Knowing when to stop/
say no to yourself.

Steadfastness - Endurance

1 Corinthians 9:24-26

Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. Therefore I do not run like someone running aimlessly; I do not fight like a boxer beating the air.

- We do not know the length of our 'race' – only that there is an end.



Godliness

- The end **DOES NOT** justify the means.
- 1 Samuel 21-22.



Brotherly Affection

- Our faith is not only personal. There is a community.

- **1 Samuel 20;**

Romans 12:9-13

Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.



Love - agape

- Do everything in love for God and one another.
- Jesus as the perfect example.
- 1 Corinthians 13

1 Corinthians 13:8

Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away.



The impossible?

**Faith > Virtues > Knowledge > Self Control
> Steadfastness > Godliness > Brotherly Affection
> Love > Faith IN God**

This is a mystery of God



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Conclusion

- Faith needs to be practiced if we are to know its merits personally.
- Faith is not a journey alone.
- Faith is an active thing and filled with hope.