Self-Control

Peter wrote, "But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control..." (2 Pet. 1:5, 6). Thayer says the Greek word for self-control carries the idea of "the virtue of one who masters his desires and passions, esp. his sensual appetites." One is to control himself in all areas.

There are some negative examples; those who did not have self-control. Saul's envy revealed a deficiency of it (1 Sam. 18:9). David lacked it when he committed adultery with Bathsheba (2 Sam. 11:2-5). Too, Solomon had almost no self-control in reference to women (1 Kgs. 11:1-4). Each man was condemned for not subduing his passions.

Noble examples of self-control include many in the Bible. Joseph was relentlessly tempted by Potiphar's wife, but he refused to give in (Gen. 39:7-12). Paul exercised it, as he said, "But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified" (1 Cor. 9:27). Jesus exemplified self-control, "when He was reviled, [He] did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten" (1 Pet. 2:23). The Lord could do this because He "committed Himself to Him who judges righteously" (1 Pet. 2:23).

We need to learn self-control; to submit ourselves to the will of God. This is true when it comes to our tempers, tongues and in sexual temptations (Gal. 5:20; Jas. 3:1-12; Matt. 5:28). Our knowledge ought to give birth to self-control as we understand our duties and the consequences for not keeping them. If we subdue our ungodly passions, we will find a great reward. If we pursue them, we will lose our souls.

Christ said, "not My will, but Yours, be done" (Lk. 22:42). Is this what we say? Is this what we do?

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