

STRENGTH 1: GRIT

BUILT FOR IMPACT SERIES

*For this very reason, make every effort to **add to your faith goodness**; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. 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 1:5-8*

GRIT IS THE STARTING POINT OF GREATNESS

You remember the movie Braveheart? William Wallace doesn't lead a rebellion because someone gave him a leadership seminar. He fights because something deep inside won't let him settle for injustice and cowardice. That's what Peter's getting at here when he says, "Add to your faith... goodness." He's not talking about being polite or just doing good deeds. The Greek word here is *aretē* — it's moral courage, virtue in action, the kind of inner strength that makes you get up and fight the right battles.

Let's be honest — most men are exhausted because they've been swinging swords at the wrong enemies. Chasing titles, bank accounts, approval, or pleasure — all while neglecting the inner life that makes a man truly dangerous for the Kingdom.

But Peter is clear: Faith is just the beginning. If your faith is real, it will show up in how you live. Not perfectly, but intentionally. With guts. With grit.

FAITH THAT WORKS

Faith alone saves you — that's grace. But faith alone is not enough to make you effective. That's why Peter uses the phrase "make every effort." In the Greek, it means bring intense diligence, eagerness, and focus — not casual interest.

You don't drift into greatness. You build it — brick by brick, choice by choice.

Adding "goodness" means we refuse to settle for mediocrity. It means we grow a backbone. In your marriage, it looks like showing up emotionally, even when you're tired. At work, it's taking responsibility when it would be easier to shift blame. In your spiritual life, it's choosing obedience even when no one's watching.

AT WORK: WHERE GOODNESS GETS TESTED

Your job isn't just a paycheck — it's a proving ground.

- Are you known for cutting corners or raising the standard?
- Do people trust your word, even when there's money on the line?
- Do you make others better, or just try to look better than others?

God doesn't just want you to survive the workweek — He wants you to represent Him in how you lead, decide, and influence. That's "goodness" in action.

THE QUIET INTEGRITY OF TRUETT CATHY

Truett Cathy, the founder of Chick-fil-A, was once asked why he insisted on closing all stores on Sundays, even though they were losing millions in potential revenue. His answer? "Because my convictions matter more than my profits." That's the kind of goodness Peter is talking about — moral excellence that doesn't cave under pressure.

It's not about perfection. It's about deciding: *I'm not for sale. I'm not going with the flow. I'm going with God.*

CHALLENGE QUESTIONS

- Q. Where in your life are you settling for "good enough"?
- Q. What's one area at work where you've been compromising excellence or character?
- Q. What would it look like for you to pursue goodness with intentionality this week?

SCRIPTURAL CROSS-REFERENCES

- James 2:17 – "Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead."
- Psalm 15 – A picture of the man who lives with integrity and stands firm.
- 1 Corinthians 16:13 – "Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong."

PRAYER

Lord, give me a backbone of courage and a heart of conviction. Don't let me settle for comfortable or easy. Teach me to live with grit and goodness — the kind that reflects You and inspires others to follow. Help me lead, work, and love with moral strength. In Jesus' name, amen.

TAKEAWAY SUMMARY

A man who adds goodness to his faith doesn't just believe the truth — he embodies it. He shows up. He owns his influence. He fights the right battles. He builds a life of excellence and integrity, one decision at a time.

THIS WEEK'S ACTION STEP

Pick one area of your life (marriage, job, parenting, leadership, etc.) where you've been on autopilot. Ask God to show you where you've been settling — and make one bold move to raise the bar. Write it down. Share it with a brother. And follow through.

GOODNESS

Acting with integrity and striving for moral excellence. Raising the standard in your work, your words, and your influence — even when no one's watching.