

Recipe for Perfection

The divine recipe from God - 2 Peter 1:3-4 - 3 His divine power HAS given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. 4 Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

Knowledge - epignosis (ep-ig'-no-sis); recognition, full discernment, and acknowledgement:

- **God's divine power provides all we need for Life and Godliness**
- **We access this through true relationship with Christ**
- **Along with these we have accesses to all his promises**
- **In order that we may participate Spiritually and escape the flesh**

The danger of those evil desires - James 1:14-15 - 14 but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. 15 Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

Once we are Spiritually in control, we follow the recipe

The ingredients - 2 Peter 1:5-7 - 5 **For this very reason**, make every effort to **add to** your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; 6 and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; 7 and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love.

*****WARNING*** Only true Godly ingredients can be used, NO FAKE IMITATIONS.**

Example: IF wisdom was one of the ingredients, we must remember there is more than one type of wisdom but only one is True wisdom - James 3:15 Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil.

Faith - pistis (pis'-tis); persuasion, i.e. belief; moral conviction (of religious truth, or the truthfulness of God or a religious teacher), especially reliance upon Christ for salvation; abstractly, constancy in such profession; by extension, the system of religious (Gospel) truth itself: **[It is a total dependence, acceptance, and trust in God]**

Goodness (virtue)- arete (ar-et'-ay); **[Excellence]**

***Fruit of the Spirit "goodness"** - agathosune (ag-ath-o-soo'-nay); goodness, charity:

Knowledge - gnosis (gno'-sis); **[knowing]** (the act), i.e. (by implication) **[knowledge]**

Self-control - egkrateia (eng-krat'-i-ah); **[Spiritually controlling self, totally accountable for one's actions].**

Perseverance - hupomone (hoop-om-on-ay'); **[hopeful, endurance, constancy]**

Godliness - eusebeia (yoo-seb'-i-ah); **[piety; reverence]**

Brotherly Kindness - philadelphia (fil-ad-el-fee'-ah); **[fraternal affection]**

Love - agape (ag-ah'-pay); love, i.e. **[affection or charity; Based solely on God.]**

Faith – Heb 11:1 & 11:6

It's through our faith we got saved - Gal 3:2 This is the only thing I want to find out from you: did you receive the Spirit by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith? NASB

Our Faith needs to be in the right thing - 1 Peter 1:21 Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope **are in God**.

As our main protection - Jude 17-20 -17 But, dear friends, remember what the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ foretold. 18 They said to you, "In the last times there will be scoffers who will follow their own ungodly desires." 19 These are the men who divide you, who follow mere natural instincts and do not have the Spirit. 20 But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit.

Our actions justify our faith - James 2:23-24 - 23 And the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness," and he was called God's friend. 24 You see that a person is justified by what he does and not by faith alone.

We must grow together to reach the level of Faith - Eph 4:13 until we all **reach unity in the faith** and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

Faith is a life-style - 2 Cor 5:7 We live by faith, NOT by sight.

Goodness (Virtue)- (Do not mistake this for self-righteousness, it's actually displaying Christ.)

Wrong righteousness will not do - Matt 5:20 For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.

It's not the "excellent humans" it's the excellence IN humans -1 Cor 1:26-31 - 26 Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by HUMAN STANDARDS; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. 27 But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. 28 He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things — and the things that are not — to nullify the things that are, 29 so that no one may boast before him. 30 It is because of **HIM THAT YOU ARE IN CHRIST JESUS, →**

→ who has become for us wisdom from God — that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. 31 Therefore, as it is written: "Let him who boasts boast in the Lord."

Goodness is NOT of us but us relying on and displaying HIM - Titus 3:5-8-5 **he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy.** He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. 8 This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may **BE CAREFUL TO DEVOTE THEMSELVES TO DOING WHAT IS GOOD.** These things are excellent and profitable for everyone.

The quality is something we should focus on in our Christian walk - Phil 4:8 Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable — if anything is excellent or praiseworthy — think about such things.

We must exude excellence in our Christianity - 1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, **THAT YOU MAY PROCLAIM THE EXCELLENCIES OF HIM** who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ESV

We must display Christ in everything we do - 2 Cor 4:7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may BE OF GOD, and NOT OF US. KJV

Our only boast is God in us - 2 Cor 1:12 Now this is our boast: Our conscience testifies that we have conducted ourselves in the world, and especially in our relations with you, in the holiness and sincerity that are FROM GOD. We have done so **not according to worldly wisdom but according to God's grace.**

How we get this quality

Start with God - Matt 6:33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Do everything in God, displaying God - 1 Cor 10:31 So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.

The result of this quality - Matt 5:14-16 -14 "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may **SEE YOUR GOOD DEEDS** and **PRAISE YOUR FATHER IN HEAVEN.**

Knowledge-

It begins with God - Prov 1:7 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.

The major part of our maturity is in our knowledge - Col 1:10 And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God,

Are we praising God in ignorance? - Rom 10:1-3 -10:1 Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved. 2 For I can testify about them that they are zealous for God, but **their zeal is NOT BASED ON KNOWLEDGE.** 3 Since they DID NOT KNOW THE RIGHTEOUSNESS THAT COMES FROM GOD and sought to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness.

You are never too knowledgeable to be taught - Acts 18:24-26-24 Meanwhile a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was a learned man, with a thorough knowledge of the Scriptures. 25 He had been instructed in the way of the Lord, and he spoke with great fervor and taught about Jesus accurately, though he knew only the baptism of John. 26 He began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they invited him to their home **and explained to him the way of God more adequately.**

Also, this ingredient used incorrectly could cause harm - 1 Cor 8:1 - Now about food sacrificed to idols: We know that we all possess knowledge. **KNOWLEDGE PUFFS UP**, but **love builds up.**

Without the ingredient of knowledge, you are on the path to destruction-Hos 4:6 my people are destroyed from lack of knowledge. "Because you have rejected knowledge, I also reject you as my priests; because you have ignored the law of your God, I also will ignore your children.

Self-control-

Prayer is so important in our lives so we must be self-controlled so we can pray - 1 Peter 4:7 The end of all things is near. Therefore **BE clear minded** and **SELF-CONTROLLED** so that you can pray.

We have to make sure we are in control of our bodies not visa-versa - 1 Cor 9:24-27 - 24 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. 25 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.** 26 Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. 27 No, I **BEAT MY BODY AND MAKE IT MY SLAVE** so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.

- **We train to not be led by our body, but have the body listen to us**
- **Live a "God-purposed" life**

We have to make sure we are in control of our Minds not visa-versa - 2 Cor 10:4-6 - 4 The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. 5 We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. 6 And we will be ready to punish every act of disobedience, once your obedience is complete.

- We do NOT use worldly weapons we have access to Divine weapons
- We eliminate anything that goes against God or stops the knowledge of God
- We recognize our thoughts and do not allow them to cause us to live in disobedience
- We keep our obedience in check

Perseverance-

Consequently, Satan asks a good question - Job 1:9-11 - 9 "Does Job fear God for nothing?" Satan replied. 10 "Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land. 11 **But stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face.**"

Perseverance is one of the main things Christians must pursue - 1 Tim 6:11 But flee from these things, you man of God, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness. NASU

It will be uncomfortable to gain this "must have" attribute - James 1:2-4 - 2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the **TESTING OF YOUR FAITH develops perseverance.** 4 **PERSEVERANCE MUST FINISH ITS WORK** so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

Perseverance is also a product of enduring suffering - Rom 5:3-5 - 3 Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; 4 perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.

The "Good soil" Christian persevere in the Word - Luke 8:15 But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.

The key to perseverance is what your focus is - Heb 12:1-2 - 1 therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, **and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.** 2 Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

We must persevere in our Christian life and ministry - 1 Tim 4:16 Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.

The quality of those headed for eternal life is persistence to Please God - Rom 2:7 To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life.

Perseverance will take you through a storm to receive the ultimate reward - Heb 10:35-37 - 35 So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. 36 **You need to persevere** so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised.

Godliness-

It takes knowledge to get to the ingredient of Godliness - Titus 1:1 - Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ for the faith of God's elect and the knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness

We must be careful to know the difference between sound doctrine, which teaches Godliness, and false doctrine- 1 Tim 6:3-5- 3 If anyone teaches false doctrines and **does not agree to the sound instruction** of our Lord Jesus Christ and to **godly teaching,** 4 he is conceited and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy interest in controversies and quarrels about words that result in envy, strife, malicious talk, evil suspicions 5 and constant friction between men of corrupt mind, who have been robbed of the truth and who think that godliness is a means to financial gain.

Godliness is a "complete" attribute of not just looking the part, but being the part - 2 Tim 3:5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them.

We must train to be Godly - 1 Tim 4:7-8 - 7 **Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives' tales;** rather, **TRAIN YOURSELF TO BE GODLY.** 8 For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for **all things,** holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.

Godliness is living as Christ lived - 1 John 2:5-6 - 5 But if anyone obeys his word, God's love is truly made complete in him. This is how we know we are in him: 6 Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did.

Godliness is needed because of all the damage Godlessness is creating - Rom 1:18 The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness,

We train into Godliness through God's Grace - Titus 2:11-12 - 11 For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. 12 It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live **self-controlled, upright and godly lives** in this present age,

***Godliness also provides the correct version of things like sorrow (2 Cor 7:9-12), Fear (Heb 11:7), and Jealousy (2 Cor 11:2)**

Along with the dangers of the fleshly versions

Brotherly kindness-

We must invest in the "body of Christ's" lives as much as we do in ours - Rom 12:10-13 - 10 Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. 11 Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. 12 Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. 13 Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

Do good for all but especially for believers - Gal 6:10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, **especially** to those who belong to the family of believers.

Obedying God's Word is what provides us with sincere Love for our brothers - 1 Peter 1:22 Now that you have purified yourselves by OBEYING THE TRUTH so that you have sincere love for your brothers, **love one another deeply, from the heart**.

Christians' love for one another is a ministry to the world - John 13:34-35 - 34 "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. 35 By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

love- (1 Cor 13:1-12)

To truly love means to truly know God - 1 John 4:8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

To love God is to do what he says - John 14:15 "If you love me, you will obey what I command."

True love does no harm...Think about it - Rom 13:10 Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

Godly love you cannot comprehend, it's just accepted - Eph 3:19 and to know this love that surpasses knowledge-that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

The greatest command is to love - Luke 10:27 He answered: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind"; and, Love your neighbor as yourself."

Love is what connects everything together perfectly - Col 3:14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Not having True Godly love renders ALL actions worthless - 1 Cor 13:1-3 - If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but **HAVE NOT LOVE**, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but **HAVE NOT LOVE**, I am nothing. 3 If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but **HAVE NOT LOVE**, I gain nothing.

Let's put it all together

1. We first add the **Goodness** (spiritual excellence) to our **faith**. This will allow us to take the Christian walk serious and keep from questioning it because of our flesh.
2. The **Knowledge** we get from Church, Bible Study, Groups... is to be added to that **Goodness** (spiritual excellence) in order for us to grow & minister IN GOD more and more each day.
3. We must have **self-control** in order to apply what we learn (**knowledge**) to make sure we do it without excuse. We have the ability to do it we just have to control ourselves to do it.
4. **Perseverance** is applied to **self-control** because at times we will slip, at time the results won't be desirable, at times we'll feel discouraged, but the ingredient of Godly perseverance makes us keep following God no matter what.
5. **Godliness** will be the goal we are **persevering** for. Every Christian should have the same goal to reach for and we should all strive to grow in Godliness to be more and more like Christ.
6. Our relationship with the Body of Christ is a must for our spiritual success. The **Brotherly kindness** we apply in **Godliness** will let us see how valuable our spiritual family is to our lives. They are even more valuable than our blood family.
7. The ingredient of **love** is the most important ingredient to be added to our spiritual relationship (**brotherly kindness**) to be display and worked throughout the world.

It's not just the ingredients; it is how they are put together - 2 Peter 1:8 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.

*** Some try to be effective and productive on their own and ALWAYS FAIL.**

The final product...PERFECTION and Welcomed into God's Kingdom - 2 Peter 1:9-11 - 9 But if anyone does not have them, he is nearsighted and blind, and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins. 10 Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, **YOU WILL NEVER FALL**, 11 and **you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom** of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Questions: (Recipe for Perfection)

1. How much did God give us for life and Godliness?
2. What is the difference between the ingredients Goodness and the Fruit Goodness?
3. What justifies our Faith?
4. Goodness is being the best that we can be (True or False)
5. God's people are destroyed by lack of what?
6. Who's Righteousness do we have to surpass to enter the Kingdom of Heaven?
7. What is the purpose we beat our bodies for?
8. What do we need to keep us from being ineffective and unproductive?
9. What MUST we start with to have true Godly knowledge?

10. Give examples to; “We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God” and “take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ”

11. What must needed attribute do trials produce in us?

12. What is the main thing that is needed to be Godly?

13. What must we do in order to have sincere love for our brothers?

14. What evidence will be displayed if we truly love God?