

# "The Building Block of Temperance"

*II Peter 1:3-9*

**Open:** *A Review of the building block of Knowledge*

- Those without knowledge and those who reject knowledge will be destroyed. **Hosea 4:6**
- Avoid living a Christian life that is based solely on facts and not faith. **II Tim. 3:4-7**
- Knowledge cannot be gained until respect for God is learned. **Prov. 1:7**
- Only once an individual has trusted by faith, can knowledge be gained. **Rom. 12:2**
- Understand that there are things about which God does not want His children to be knowledgeable. **Rom. 16:19**

**Tran:** *A look at the use of the word "temperance" in the Bible.*

- **Those who desire to be winners at life will need to learn to be temperate in life.** **I Cor. 9:24-25** *"Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. [25] And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible."*
  - There needs to be a certain level of self-restraint and moderation in life in order to succeed.
- **Temperance is necessary in the Christian life to recognize that God views an individual's values differently than man.** God has placed each person where **HE** wants them to be. **I Cor. 12:18, 24-25** *"But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him. [24] For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked: [25] That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another."*
  - Temperance brings unity amongst sinners.
- **Temperance is a byproduct of being yielded to the Holy Spirit.** **Gal. 5:16-17, 22** *"This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. [17] For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would...[22] But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, [23] Meekness, **temperance**: against such there is no law."*

## I. **Understanding the importance of having temperance in your life.**

### A. **Temperance = Moderation, exercising self-control.**

- i. Paul speaks to the church of Phillipi and encourages them to stand fast in the Lord so they can receive the reward(s) in life they desire. **Phil. 4:1** *"Therefore, my brethren dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, my dearly beloved."*
  - God wants his children to realize the only way to have the joy of the crown (victory) is to exercise self-control and stand fast in the Lord. **I Cor. 15:57-58** *"But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. [58] Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."*
- ii. In this final chapter of Philipians, the Bible gives instruction to the reader regarding their moderation. **Phi. 4:5** *"Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand."*
  - Paul was teaching that those who will be successful Christians, will need to live a life of moderation. [Avoiding extremes and living a balanced life, both physical and spiritual.]
- iii. Exercising self-control is better exercised by the Christian who is Holy Spirit controlled. For one to be controlled by the Holy Spirit, one must crucify the flesh and yield to the Holy Spirit. **Gal. 5:24-25** *"And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. [25] If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit."*

B. **Tempering = To make moldable again, or to increase an objects usefulness.**

- i. **ILL: The Tempering of a blade.** Tempering is a heat treatment applied to an object to achieve greater toughness by decreasing how brittle an object is while increasing the strength. This is why the Bible instructs us to not be surprised when our faith is put into the fire. **I Peter 4:12** "*Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:*"
- ii. **ILL: The purifying of a precious metal.** A refiner will place a valuable metal (ie. Gold, silver...etc.) into a furnace and will use a heating process to draw out impurities to make this precious metal more valuable. As a child of God our lives already have a certain value to them; but God wants to increase that value and our usefulness. **I Peter 1:7** "*That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:*"

## II. **Applying the knowledge of temperance to your life.**

- Some Christians will grow to the point in life where they gain knowledge; but sadly, because of pride, this is where the growth process will stop.

A. **Stay humble. I Cor. 9:27** "*But I keep under my body, and bring it under subjection; lest by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a cast away.*"

B. **Stay teachable. Ps. 17:15** "*...I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness.*"

- i. Those who stop learning are those who have become hardened or set in their way of thinking.
- ii. A wise man realizes that the more he learns, the less he knows.

C. **Stay moldable.**

- i. I must keep in mind that God knows what is best for my life, and that He has my best interest in mind. So if He wants to add something or take something out, then it is for my benefit, and His glory.

a) **Is. 45:9** - "*...shall the clay say to him that fashioneth it, What makest thou?...*"

b) **Rom 9:21** - "*Hath not the potter power over the clay...*"

- Every time we hear God's word preached, every time we read God's word, every time the Holy Spirit shows us something we need to change, we have a decision to make. Do we remain the same, or do we allow the master potter to mold us?

- ii. We need to be careful to not resist the potter's hands. **Jer. 18:4, 6** - "*and the vessel that he made of clay was marred (broken, defiled, potentially useless) in the hand of the potter so he made it again another vessel, as seemed good to the potter to make it. (vs.6) ...cannot I do with you as this potter? saith the Lord. Behold, as the clay is in the potter's hand, so are ye in mine hand...*"

- We may look at our life and see something that is pretty good or not that bad; but when God looks at it, He sees what we could be. **ILL.** *A baseball coach and his team.*

iii. **Allow God to make you into what *HE* wants you to be.**

a) A new mind. **Phil. 2:5** "*Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.*"

b) A new heart. **Ps. 51:10** "*Creat in me a clean heart...*"

c) A new spirit - **Ezk. 11:19a** "*And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you...*"

d) A new song – **Ps.40:3** - "*And he hath put a new song in my mouth...*"

**Close:**

- One of the top to reasons Christian's stop growing is because they get so complacent, that they become satisfied with where they are at.
- There are times in our life when God has to put us through the fire, not to hurt or discourage us; but to temper our lives and make our lives more beneficial for His use.
  - Purging Fire - **Ps. 66:10** "*For thou O God hast proved us: thou hast tried us as silver is tried.*"
  - Molding Fire - **Jer. 18:4** "*...and the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter so he made it agian another vessel, as seemed good to the potter to make it.*"
- Will you allow success or growth in the Christian life to keep you from being more useful?

**Job 23:10**

*"But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold."*

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***"Review Questions"***

1. Those who desire to be winners at life will need to learn to be **?????????** in life. **Temperate.**
2. Temperance is a biproduct of being yielded to **?????????** = **The Holy Spirit.**
3. What does the word "temperance" mean? **Showing moderation, exercising self-control or to make moldable again, to increase an objects usefullness.**
4. There are 3 things we need to do in order to have temperance in our lives, what are they?
  - a. **Stay Humble**
  - b. **Stay Moldable**
  - c. **Stay Teachable**
5. Allow God to make you into what **HE** wants you to be.