

2 PETER 1:3 - 6 // *this week's memory verse*

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. 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.

2 PETER 1:3 - 6 // *this week's memory verse*

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; ...

THE NEXT GOOD THING

pursuing gospel resilience

6 TAKING SHELTER IN FELLOWSHIP

Taking shade and shelter under the pillar and foundation of the truth (1 Tim 3:15)

5 HEALING THE WEAKENING WOUNDS

Facing what festers, weakens and diminishes God's restoration in Christ (Isa 61:3, Rom 7-8)

3 TENDING THE FIRE OF DEVOTION

Keep up your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord (Rom 12:11)

1 KNOWING THE PRIORITY OF THE HEART

Love the lord your God with all your heart, soul and strength (Deut 6:5-6, Prov 4:23)

4 READY TO DO THE NEXT GOOD THING

Always give yourself fully to the work of the Lord...your labor is not in vain (1 Cor 15:58)

2 STANDING ON THE GOSPEL FOUNDATION

He has given us everything we need through our knowledge of him who called us (2 Peter 1:3-4)





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ROMANS 12:9 - 15

Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly 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...

ROMANS 12:9 - 15

...Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.

WARMED BY THE FIRE WE TEND

“Our people seem unprepared and unable to sustain their spiritual lives. In fact, I’ve been unpleasantly surprised as how poorly I’ve sustained my spiritual life in these times.”

– Adam Mabry

**"DO NOT BE IDLE IN EARNESTNESS, BE
FERVENT IN SPIRIT, SERVING THE LORD."**

Can we be responsible
for our heart's
emotional intensity?
Our level of devotion?



YOU HAVE TO TEND THE DEVOTIONAL FIRE THAT WARMS YOU

Reject emotional passivity and embrace a "devotional" mindset—devotion is something you can pursue in the midst of fluctuating emotions.



**YOU CAN'T ALWAYS PURSUE AN
EMOTION,**

**BUT YOU CAN ALWAYS PURSUE
DEVOTION.**

CLARITY: GRACIOUS STRIVING

First, how this is a gracious pursuit.

Second, exactly how to tend the
fire of devotion.

Gracious Striving:

YOU TEND THE FIRE, GOD MAKES IT BURN

2 Peter 1:3 – 5

**His divine power has given us everything we
need...for this very reason, make every effort...**

PHILIPPIANS 2:12 – 16

Continue to *work out your salvation* with fear and trembling, for *it is God who works in you* to will and to act according to his good purpose.

See also: James 3:13 – 18, Ephesians 6 (armor of God)

EMOTION, THOUGH ELUSIVE, IS ALSO PREDICTABLE.

What is obvious
in teenagers is
there in your
human nature
toward God.





WE WERE MADE FOR SPIRITUAL COMBUSTION.

We were made for devotion to truth, justice,
joy, wonder, hope, kindness, intimacy,
friendship, loyalty—every good found in the
character of God and creation.

3 DEVOTIONAL HORIZONS:

1. The Immediate Moment
2. The Middle Distance
3. The Long Game

1. TEND THE DEVOTIONAL STATE OF YOUR HEART

Pursuing the peace of God in this moment's turbulence in immediate devotional obedience (in step with the Spirit)

EXAMPLE PASSAGES:

Philippians 2:12-16, 4:4-9, Psalm 42, 43,
2 Corinthians 10:3-5, Romans 12:11-18

HOW DO YOU DO THIS?

1. Seek a moment by moment devotional "frame" (worship).
2. Take responsibility for your inner turmoil, and reject emotional passivity and behavioral incontinence.
3. Discern inner turmoil and its temptation.
4. Devotionally turn to God for momentary grace and direction.

2. TEND TO THE DEVOTIONAL CONDITION OF YOUR HEART

Middle distance is focused on the health and feeding of the heart. The devotional heart is an organism that needs care.

HOW DO YOU DO THIS?

1. Don't sin against your humanity
(rest and repetition)
2. Practice direct devotion
3. Participate in the fellowship of
the devoted

3. TEND THE DEVOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF YOUR HEART

Purify and deepen the well of devotion and emotion through developing a heart of virtue.

Heart of virtue: learning to love what is truly lovely.

See passage: Hebrews 5:11 – 14

**YOU HAVE TO TEND THE FIRE
OF YOUR SPIRITUAL DEVOTION**

YOU CAN'T ALWAYS PURSUE AN
EMOTION,

BUT YOU CAN ALWAYS PURSUE
DEVOTION.

TEND YOUR DEVOTIONAL HEART...

Momentary frame—The peace of God

Feeding and care—practicing devotion

Purifying and deepening—virtuous loves

MAKE EVERY STRIVING GRACIOUS

THE NEXT GOOD THING

pursuing gospel resilience