

## “Passion and Patience”

By Mrs. Sojourner



This past week The Sojourner and I watched “Amazing Grace,” a movie about the abolition of the British slave trade.

One noteworthy thing about William Wilberforce, the man who continually worked to abolish the slave trade and introduced numerous bills into the British Parliament, was his passion or zeal for his cause and his patient diligence in doing the work. Eighteen years could seem like a long time to work toward a goal, especially when so many of the bills one is working to pass, fail. Over and over some would say Wilberforce failed, but in reality, each time he failed he got closer and closer to his goal.

Wilberforce, a committed Christian, is an excellent example of a Believer who mixed his passion, for God and his ways, with patience. These two combined bring success.

The scriptures also have many examples of people who mix their zeal with patience, and in the long run

they succeed in accomplishing what God has for them to do.

Notes:

[a]  
Gal. 5:22

David knew he was anointed King of Israel and he mixed patience with his passion for God and His ways and God delivered the throne into David’s hands.

Noah knew what God had told him about the upcoming flood. He patiently and methodically did what God instructed him to do and on the appointed day he and his family received God’s deliverance.

Do not get discouraged if doing what you know God has called you to do is taking longer than you expect. God is faithful to his word and keeps his promises. Hang on to God’s zeal but also remember that patience is a fruit of the Spirit.<sup>[a]</sup>

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# Sojourning

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...with The Sojourner

## “Grace And Godliness”

(Teaching Sketch)

2 Peter 1:1-11



When God blesses mankind it is an act of grace.<sup>[1]</sup> Grace, when applied to the Believer, reaches far beyond the common grace experienced by all people. Common grace consists of the environment in which all live out their “natural” lives. All and any grace is a gift, an unearned gift.

Godliness is, itself, a part of the gift of grace as Peter points out in verse one (:1) when he says, “To those who through the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ have received a faith as precious as ours...”

### Righteousness

Yes, believer’s possess righteousness, but it is God’s righteousness by way of Jesus Christ, not from any person in and of themselves. Godliness, then, is developed within the gift of righteousness.

### Everything Needed

It is God’s divine power, then, which enables a person

to develop godliness as they grow in their knowledge of God and just what it is Jesus Christ did for them on the Cross.

This is especially true as the Believer comes to understand Christ not only paid for their sins, thus giving them eternal life, but also restored the relationship, power, and authority of mankind to that possessed in the Garden of Eden! Notice in verse four (: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.”

### The Divine Nature

Believers possess the ability to participate in the divine nature if they, “make every effort to add to your faith...” The Believer has a responsibility to add to or build up themselves to the full potential of what God, himself, made available to the Be-

**Notes:**  
[1] charis khar'-eece ; graciousness (as gratifying), of manner or act; especially the divine influence upon the heart, and its reflection in the life; including gratitude):— acceptable, benefit, favour, gift, grace (-ious), joy liberality, pleasure, thank (-s, -worthy).

## Scripture:

### 2 Peter 1:1-11 (NIV)

<sup>1</sup>Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who through the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ have received a faith as precious as ours:

<sup>2</sup>Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

#### Making One's Calling and Election Sure

<sup>3</sup>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. <sup>4</sup>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.\*

<sup>5</sup>For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; <sup>6</sup>and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness;<sup>\*</sup> <sup>7</sup>and to godliness,<sup>\*</sup> brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. <sup>8</sup>For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being in-

#### Notes:

\* Emphasis added.

effective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup>But if anyone does not have them, he is nearsighted and blind, and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins. <sup>10</sup>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, <sup>11</sup>and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.



## Advent

**Advent starts next week!**  
We will be lighting the first candle on the wreath which is the:

## Prophecy Candle

## “Grace And Godliness” (Teaching Sketch)

2 Peter 1:1-11

liever! (:5)

#### What Is To Be Added?

Look in :6 & :7 at what the Believer has the responsibility of adding: <sup>6</sup>and to [1] knowledge, [2] self-control; and to self-control, [3] perseverance; and to perseverance, [4]godliness; <sup>7</sup>and to godliness, [5] brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, [6] love. Believers need to always remember, “God is love” and it is with love Peter completes his list because love is the pinnacle of godliness!

#### Effectiveness

Effectiveness in God’s Kingdom comes by building these six aspects of godliness up by the Believer’s daily exercise and diligence in these matters. Possessing comes in continual increase. (:8)

#### Making Certain!

Believers have the responsibility of making their standing in God’s Kingdom solid and effectual! <sup>10</sup>Because of this, brethren, be all the more solicitous and eager to make sure (to ratify, to strengthen, to make steadfast) your calling and election; for if you do this, you will never stumble or fall. Be a stumble-proof Believer!

#### Just so you’ll know:

**Our service is informal.** We look to the Holy Spirit of God to guide us corporately and individually.

Our service usually follows this general pattern:

- **Informal sharing** of what we have seen the Lord do in, through, and around us since we last met.
  - Testimonies are often a part of the conversation.
- **Opening Prayer**
- **Praise & Worship**
- **Words of Prophecy or Knowledge** if they have been given during “Praise & Worship” (other times as the Spirit moves).
- **The Pastoral Message**
- **Prayer Requests**
  - Ministry to those present & intercession.
- **The Blessing**

