

This speaks to us about effort, diligence, work! The NASB translates it "exerting yourselves with all earnestness, . . ." And what are we to work on? Why, ourselves! And on what qualities of character do we need to work? Why, those we lack, of course, as well as those that need improvement!

Peter lists seven qualities that we need to work at adding: moral excellence or virtue, knowledge of God's truth, self-control, patient endurance or perseverance, godliness or holiness, brotherly love, and AGAPE love.

In our next lesson we'll look at each of these qualities, ask what happens if we do not develop Christian character and conduct and what happens if we do.

In the meanwhile let's realize that God has made wonderful and ample provision for our growth toward spiritual maturity, and that this gracious provision carries with it a great responsibility to exert ourselves toward that goal!