

this.

And yet if we are ever going to experience the reality of the one true and living God, we must know the truth of who He is – both the qualities of His character and the ways in which He works. And these truths are found in the universe He has created, in our hearts and consciences, and preeminently in the Bible. It is true that we can know a great deal about God and fail to know Him. But is also true that unless we know the truth about Him, we cannot know Him.

Let us then become students of the Word! Just as the food we eat nurtures and sustains our physical bodies, so God's Word nurtures and sustains our souls. We can't live spiritually without spiritual food! Let us get to know God in His Word, that we may love Him better and do His will more faithfully!

C. The third quality that we ought to add to our faith is self-control.

Verse 6 says: "and to knowledge, self-control"

Johahn Wolfgang von Goethe, Germany's greatest poet and writer, said: "What is the best government? That which teaches us to govern ourselves."

What in ourselves do we need to govern?

Proverbs 4:23 warns us to "watch over (or guard) your heart (i.e., your inner being, what you are at the core of your being) with all diligence, for from it flow the springs of life."

Philippians 4:8 tells us to govern our thought life: "Whatsoever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, let your mind dwell on these things."

Colossians 3:5 tells us to control our evil desires and their expressions: "But now you also, put them all aside; wrath, outbursts of anger, malice, slander, and abusive speech from your mouth."

James 3:9-10 tells us to control our tongue. James writes: "With it (our tongue) we bless our Lord and Father; and with it we curse men, who have been made in the likeness of God; from the same mouth come both