

VIRTUE

Virtue is a beautiful Greek word (ARETE) that represents a beautiful, honorable character trait which we need to make a part of us. Originally, it speaks of excellence of any kind. For the Greeks, this especially referred to brave men, wise men, and strong men. In the New Testament context, God is whose virtue we are to proclaim (**1 Peter 2:9**). We are to meditate on His excellence (**Philippians 4:8**). We are to strive for excellence in our service to Him (**2 Peter 1:5**).

It is the commitment to doing what is right and honorable in spite of difficulty, circumstances, even opposition. Our true character will show through as we are tested. We should follow the example of Jesus. We should make our decisions just as if Jesus were right by our side physically. This thought will help us to overcome temptation when no one else is around, and it will help us to overcome temptation when we are surrounded by people who are pressuring us to conform to their desires and rejecting us if we don't.

Before temptation surprises or overwhelms us, we must determine that we will do what is right and be just as determined not to do wrong.