

character is “*multiplied*” to us “*in the knowledge of God and Jesus our Lord.*” Therefore Peter tells us to “*apply all diligence*” in the exercise of our “*faith*” to become like Him and take on His wonderful virtue.

2 Peter 1:5-8 - 5 Now for this very reason also, **applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence**, and in your moral excellence, knowledge; 6 and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness; 7 and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love. 8 For **if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.** NASB

Thus the manifest glory of God is increasing in intensity through our lives as we become more like Him, because in becoming like Him we therefore **bear His image**, with greater intensity we manifest and display His excellent goodness as **reflectors** of His image. This is why we were both created and saved. Consider Jesus words in Matthew 5:16 with this in mind.

Matthew 5:16 - 16 "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, **and glorify your Father who is in heaven.** NASB

And so God calls us to both **worship Him** and to **become like Him**, to bear His image, so that we might put on display His glory through our lives.

The meaning of **worship** is to “**ascribe worth or value to something.**” As we worship God, if it is truly motivated from the heart, we are praising Him because in our hearts we truly value the worth of His person. We value His glory, the sum total of His Goodness, the excellency of His attributes. We value and cherish His patience and mercy, His wisdom and love, His power and knowledge. As we grow in the personal knowledge of God and experience of Him through that knowledge, we grow in our appreciation of His glory, and because in our hearts we truly valuing His Goodness, we seek therefore by default to **become more like Him** because we truly value His nature and want to be like that ourselves. We **value His love**, so we want to be **loving**, because we appreciate love and seek after it to possess it fully. We **value His wisdom**, so we seek to become **wise**, because we have eaten the good fruit of wisdom, and experienced the pleasantness of her who is more valuable than rubies (Prov 3:13-18)! In this way we become what we worship. We long and thirst for Him, and glory in Him, then we long for Him again, and glory in Him again. We feast on the table He has prepared for us in His Word!

Psalm 42:1-2 - 1 As the deer pants for the water brooks, So **my soul pants for Thee, O God.**

2 My soul thirsts for God, for the living God; When shall I come and appear before God? NASB

Psalm 63:1-5 - O God, Thou art my God; **I shall seek Thee earnestly; My soul thirsts for Thee, my flesh yearns for Thee, In a dry and weary land where there is no water.** 2 Thus I have beheld Thee in the sanctuary, To see Thy power and Thy glory. 3 Because Thy lovingkindness is better than life, My lips will praise Thee. 4 So I will bless Thee as long as I live; I will lift up my hands in Thy name. 5 My soul is satisfied as with marrow and fatness, And my mouth offers praises with joyful lips. NASB

Psalm 84:2 - 2 My **soul longed and even yearned for the courts of the Lord; My heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.** NASB

This process of enjoying, worshipping and becoming like God is very pleasing to God. Grudem comments... “*As we glorify God and enjoy him, Scripture tells us that he rejoices in us. We read, “As the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you” (Isa 62:5), and Zephaniah prophesies that the Lord “will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival” (Zeph 3:17-18).*” (from Systematic Theology, Copyright © 1994 by Wayne Grudem)

But consider that even the wicked become what they worship.

Psalm 115:1-8 - 1 Not to us, O Lord, not to us, But **to Thy name give glory Because of Thy lovingkindness, because of Thy truth.** 2 Why should the nations say, "Where, now, is their God?"