



"And they came and said to him, 'Teacher, we know that you are true and do not care about anyone's opinion. For you are not swayed by appearances, but truly teach the way of God. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not? Should we pay them, or should we not?"

Mark 12:14

"I will run in the way of your commandments when you enlarge my heart!"

Psalm 119:32

I will run in the way of your commandments for you have set my heart free!

I will only run in the way of your commandments when you set my heart free!

"I have seen a limit to all perfection, but your commandment is exceedingly broad."

Psalm 119:96 (ESV)

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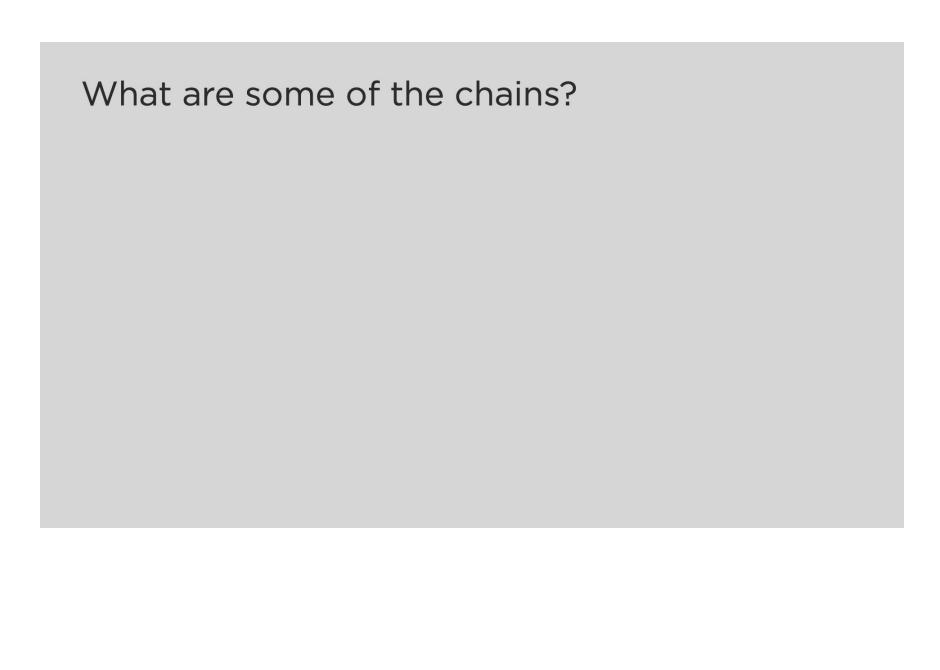
Psalm 119:96 (ESV)

"To all perfection I see a limit, but your commands are boundless."

Psalm 119:96 (NIV)

"As we go forward in our life and faith, our hearts will expand and we will run the way of God's commandments with unspeakable sweetness of love."

The Rule of Benedict, Prologue 49



What are some of the chains?

• <u>impurity</u>

What are some of the chains?

- <u>impurity</u>
- perishability

God has done **everything** to ensure your total freedom to **truly love others**.

"Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, "since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; for 'All flesh is like grass

And all its glory like the flower of grass.

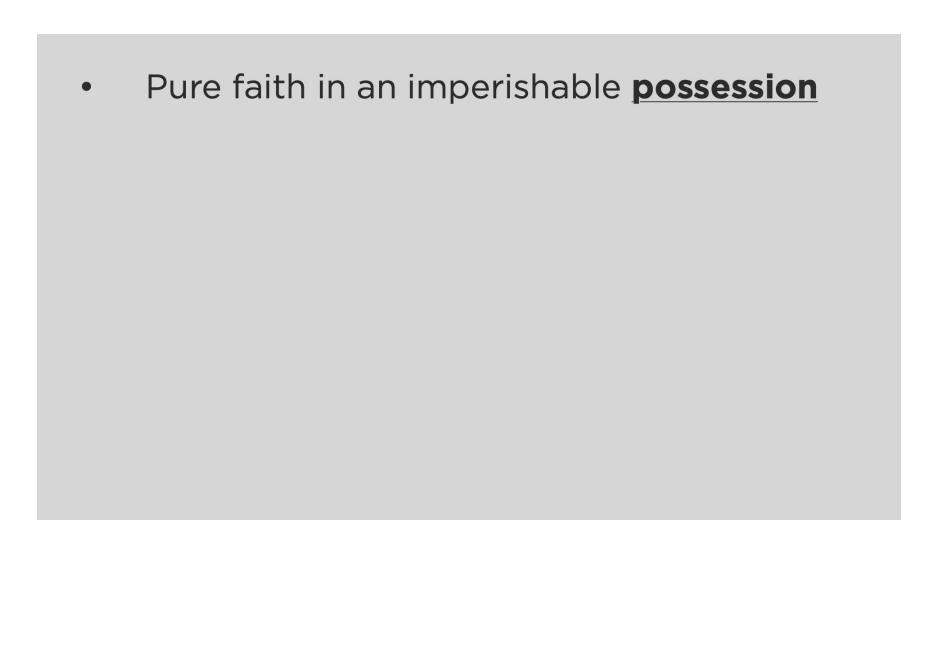
The grass withers,

And the flower falls,

But the word of the Lord remains forever.'

"And this word is the good news that was preached to you."

1 Peter 1:22-25



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- Pure conduct through an imperishable purchase

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- Pure conduct through an imperishable purchase
- Pure love because of the imperishable
   Word of God

## 1. **Love**

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1 Peter 1:22b

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1 Peter 1:22b

earnest = stretched

"So Peter was kept in prison, but **earnest** prayer for him was made to God by the church."

Acts 12:5

"And being in agony he prayed more **earnestly**; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground."

Luke 22:44

pure =

pure = unmixed unhypocritical genuine

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- 2. Love enabled by **purity**

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"Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love"

1 Peter 1:22a

"obedience to the truth" =

"obedience to the truth" = believing and living in the reality of who God is and what he has done in the gospel "For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another.

"But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, "but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

"The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works. These things are excellent and profitable for people.

"But avoid foolish controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels about the law, for they are unprofitable and worthless.

"As for a person who stirs up division, after warning him once and then twice, have nothing more to do with him, knowing that such a person is warped and sinful; he is self-condemned."

Titus 3:4-11

- 1. Love
- 2. Love enabled by <u>purity</u>
- 3. Love empowered by **imperishability**

"since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; for 'All flesh is like grass

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"since you have been born again, not of **perishable** seed but of **imperishable**, through the **living** and **abiding** word of God; for

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## The **House of Perishability**

"So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander."

1 Peter 2:1

"But recall the former days when, after you were enlightened, you endured a hard struggle with sufferings, sometimes being publicly exposed to reproach and affliction, and sometimes being partners with those so treated.

"For you had compassion on those in prison, and you joyfully accepted the plundering of your property, since you knew that you yourselves had a better possession and an abiding one.

"Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward."

Hebrews 10:32-35