perishable, even though tested by fire, may **be found to result in praise and glory and honor** at the revelation of Jesus Christ; NASB

Everything that happens is working toward this good end of God conforming us into Christ's image. The trials and sorrows, the joys and happiness, the blessings and the discipline all work together for the good of true Christians.

Romans 8:28-30 - 28 And we know that **God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose**. 29 For whom He foreknew, **He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son**, that He might be the first-born among many brethren; 30 and whom He predestined, these He also called; and whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified. NASB

Thomas Watson comments; *"Observe the happy condition of every child of God. All things work for his good, the best and worst things. The most dark cloudy providences of God have some sunshine in them. What a blessed condition is a true believer in! When he dies, he goes to God: and while he lives, everything shall do him good. Affliction is for his good. What hurt does the fire to the gold? It only purifies it. What hurt does the fan to the corn? It only separates the chaff from it. God never uses His staff, but to beat out the dust. Affliction does that which the Word many times will not, it "* opens the ear to discipline " *(Job 36:10). When God lays men upon their backs, then they look up to heaven. God's smiting His people is like the musician's striking upon the violin, which makes it put forth a melodious sound. How much good comes to the saints by affliction! When they are pounded and broken, they send forth their sweetest smell. Affliction is a bitter root, but it bears sweet fruit. "* It yieldeth the peaceable fruits of righteousness " *(Heb 12:11). Affliction is the highway to heaven; though it be flinty and thorny, yet it is the best way. Poverty shall starve our sins; sickness shall make grace more helpful (2 Cor 5:16). Reproach shall cause "* the Spirit of God and of glory to rest upon us " *(I Pet 4:14). Death shall stop the bottle of tears, and open the gate of Paradise. A believer's dying day is his ascension day to glory. Hence it is, the saints have put their afflictions in the inventory of their riches (Heb 11:26)."* End quote. WOW! **Our afflictions are our riches?** Indeed they are! And we are to **count them joy** in the process of becoming like Christ! Normally, our trials are not many, but when they do come, let us rejoice in the goodness of God to change us, and remember that if they were not necessary, they would not come. Consider that normally, our days are filled with the rich and abundant blessings of God and His hand is rich with blessing!

1 Timothy 6:17-19 - 17 Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to **fix their hope** on the uncertainty of riches, **but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy**. 18 Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, 19 storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, **so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed**. NASB

Indeed God shows up each day with abundant blessings of provision, and health and sunshine and family and friends and work and happiness and rich enjoyment of everything He created! Through these, as well as our trials and difficulties **He powerfully molds us into thankful, obedient, joyful, patient, and loving children of God**. When we pray, He hears and answers. When we share the Gospel, others get saved. When we make disciples and love and serve the church, the saints are edified and encouraged and built up in the most holy faith. When we worship through the preaching of the Word, the taking of the Table, the joyful singing of saints in assembly, and we read the Word and fellowship and encourage one another, **God powerfully shows up** and **changes us into his image** by the work of the Holy Spirit. Our **faith** in Christ has **involved us in the working a power of God**, who is fetching glory for Himself and putting it on display in the church to all of mankind, as well as the angels both holy fallen.

Ephesians 3:8-12 - 8 To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, **to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ**, 9 and to bring to light what is the administration of the mystery which

for ages has been hidden in God, who created all things; 10 **in order that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places**. 11 This was **in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord**, 12 in whom we have boldness and confident access through faith in Him. NASB

The **church** is a **"city on a hill,"** the very **"light of the world,"** carrying the good news of the Gospel to each generation and powerfully displaying God's glory by the way we live our lives!

Matthew 5:14-16 - 14 "**You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill** cannot be hidden. 15 "Nor do men light a lamp, and put it under the peck-measure, but on the lampstand; **and it gives light to all who are in the house**. 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

2 Corinthians 3:2-5 - 2 You are our letter, written in our hearts, **known and read by all men; 3 being manifested that you are a letter of Christ, cared for by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone, but on tablets of human hearts**. 4 And such confidence we have through Christ toward God. 5 Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as coming from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God, NASB

Now summing up **the relation of faith to sanctification**, and how God through the Word and by the Spirit is changing us, let us consider 2 Peter 1:2-11. Let us see here how God richly supplies for us the **indicatives** of the **Word (the promises)**, and how the Spirit uses these as the resource to motivate the **imperatives** in our lives and change us in our character and behavior so that we **"become partakers of the divine nature,"** being conformed into the image of Christ. 2 Peter 1:2-4 describes the resources that are ours through **"the true knowledge God"** and provide for us **"everything"** we need to be like Christ (godliness). Also how through Word, here the **"magnificent and precious promises,"** we might **"become partakers of the divine nature,"** which is another way of describing being changed into the image and likeness of God.

2 Peter 1:2-4 - 2 **Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus** our Lord; 3 seeing that His divine power has granted to us **everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him** who called us by His own glory and excellence. 4 For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, **in order that by them you might become partakers of the divine nature**, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust. NASB

These verses, 2-4, are **indicatives** telling us of the wonderful **resources, and power, and process** that are ours in the **"true knowledge of God"** and the **"magnificent and precious promises."** Then when we get to verses 5-8, we see a section of imperatives which are firmly rooted in these indicative promises of verses 2-4. As we **believe,** that is **exercise our faith**, out of the abundance of resources that are ours in faith, (that is the true knowledge of God), we are able by **"His divine power"** (divine enablement) to appropriate the resources to experience and exercise the very virtues of God, that is the **"divine nature."**

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

And so the imperative is to **"put on"** the **"divine nature"** of ***"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."*** In this we are to "apply all diligence," or if you will, **exert God dependent effort**. This is because you apply this diligence **"in your faith"** or out of the resources of your faith, the very resources described in verses 2-4. The **imperatives** of verses 5-8 are grounded in the **indicatives** of verses 2-4. So God does not expect you to create the virtues in yourself with your **own ability or the arm of flesh**, but rather by **believing** and

exercising **faith**, supply out of that faith the virtues of God's divine nature. **"In your faith supply moral excellence."** That is, **exert God dependent effort** by drawing upon the resource of God's power and nature, supplying it out of your faith, and **put on *"moral excellence."*** And to this of course we are to add ***"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."*** See here by **believing the promises** (the Word), that these resources of God are ours, we **apply diligence to put them on**, and become partakers of the divine nature ourselves, having **appropriated them by faith**. See here the relation of faith to Sanctification. Faith is vital to the appropriation of divine resources for God's purpose of image bearing to come to full fruition. And if we simply obey this imperative, God says we will be a **fruitful** and **effective Christian**. ***"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."*** In verse 9-11 He reaffirms that this **fruit bearing is grounded in the Gospel** (v-9), and through our diligence in faith, grant us an abundant experience of assurance in our faith (v-10), as we see the demonstration of His divine nature in our experience.

> **2 Peter 1:9-11** - 9 For **he who lacks these qualities is blind or short-sighted, having forgotten his purification from his former sins**. 10 Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for **as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble; 11 for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you**. NASB

Notice how in verse 9, **"if you lack these qualities"** he says, you are **"blind and short-sighted,"** that is, **"having forgotten your purification from former sins."** Here he explains that a Christian who bears little fruit has little cognitive remembrance or knowledge of the richness of our forgiveness in Christ and the Atonement. He has **"forgotten"** how clean he has become through the Gospel, and instead of living in an appropriating the resources that are ours through the Gospel, we wallow in the mire and muck of a fruitless and lacking Christian life. Our faith or belief in the Gospel is greatly lacking and this lack or **unbelief is the root and core of the problem** of a **fruitless and ineffective Christian life**. If you lack ***"these qualities"*** (the virtues of verse 6-7), you are **"blind"** to the **richness of the Gospel** and what is yours in Christ, and have **"forgotten your purification from former sins."** But on the contrary if you believe with lively faith and therefore apply diligence and appropriate the resources of the Gospel, and actually **"practice"** the virtues (v-10), ***"you will never stumble; 11 for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you."***

So the text structure develops like this;

2 Pet 1:2-4 - Resources, power, and process – indicatives
2 Pet 1:5-8 - imperatives grounded in the resources of 2-4 calling us to put on the virtues and practice godliness
2 Pet 1:9 - if you lack fruit, you have forgotten the Gospel
2 Pet 1:10-11 - if you believe 2-4, resulting in 5-8, you gain rich entrance into the kingdom

See here that life in Christ is **abundantly supplied** for those who are **diligent in faith**, **exerting God dependent effort** in the process of Sanctification. This is the **relation of faith** to **Sanctification**. It is vital to the process and its fruitful and effective outcome. Through diligent faith on the part of the believer, God's glory in image bearing is put on display in abundance.