

A photograph of a two-lane asphalt road stretching into the distance, flanked by dry grass and hills. The sky is filled with dramatic, dark clouds, with a bright light source breaking through in the center, creating a lens flare effect. The overall mood is contemplative and hopeful.

If There Is Any Virtue

Philippians 4:8

What Is Virtue?

- “Arete” - moral goodness, properly 'moral excellence' which is displayed to enrich life
- The Greeks and Romans used “arete” to describe excellency in any area of life; the act of living up to one’s full potential
- Though used a multitude of times in Greek literature, the word is used only five times in four verses in the New Testament:
 - **Philippians 4:8**
 - **1 Peter 2:9**
 - **2 Peter 1:3**
 - **2 Peter 1:5**

What Is Virtue?

- **Frugality:** Economy and simplicity of style, without being miserly
- **Respectability:** The image that one presents as a respectable member of society
- **Industriousness:** Hard work
- **Sternness:** Gravity, self-control
- **Truthfulness:** Honesty in dealing with others

Five Of The Ancient “Virtues”

Values vs Virtue

- **“Values” means knowing the right thing to do**
 - Individual values change over time in response to changing life experiences
- **“Virtue” is doing the right thing**
 - This strength comes from a genuine change of heart
Ezekiel 36:26-27
 - “Virtue” is “moral excellence” not “moral mediocrity”
2 Peter 1:8, 10-11

Why We Need Virtue

- **We Are Called Upon To Be Mature**
Ephesians 4:14
- **We Will Often Be In The Minority**
Numbers 14:6-10
- **We Face Temptations Daily**
1 Peter 5:8-9
- **We Must Speak The Truth**
2 Timothy 4:1-5

**In What Area Of Your
Walk With God Are
You Excelling?**