

## The God of Relationship Pt. 4

II Peter 1:3-4 Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, January 4, 2023 O Master Let Me Walk 451

**CCEF CONFERENCE ONLINE** Book calling for life of godliness in face of false teaching, Right from greeting, saw assumptions we need to remember if we are truly born again; **1. Clear hierarchy**—Simon Peter, a bond-servant of Jesus Christ. **2. Clear mission**—an apostle of Jesus Christ **3. Clear position**—To those who have received a faith of the same kind as ours, by the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ: **4. Clear blessed provision** ? Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; THIS relationship between God and man tying them together what on Paul's mind as he continues, expounds on it **1. Gracious Glories of God's Calling v. 3** seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and everything pertaining to godliness, everything needed to live NOW and into eternity with life lived pleasing to God; to see His power, must see HIS hand in all to give/sustain/bring about life lived pleasing to Him; that's why very specific means through which this power given to us; through the true knowledge of Him; this not distant, cold, but a knowledge living inside relationship, product of conversion--He called us not just invitation, effective calling—focusing not merely on calling, but purpose for calling **How did He call us bringing about this relationship?** By His own glory how do you see it—through His excellence—His virtuous acts which are glorious—character, miracles, teaching—work of redemption; **relational part of power?** those He called, He granted what is needed to apprehend true knowledge of Lord Jesus, to perceive Him as glorious—that His beauty captures us, “In other words, when Christ calls people to himself, they perceive the beauty and loveliness of his moral character. His character becomes exceedingly attractive to them, and they trust God for their salvation.” Schreiner, p. 293 grace and peace multiplied as we believe and live in light of seeing beauty of what done; **II. Glories of God's Faithful Enablement v. 4** How secure is calling? Calling Backed by His Precious and magnificent promises; how get these? For by these—seems to refer to glory and excellence—THIS glory of God seen through His excellent works is means by which we are given/perceive as for us His precious and magnificent promises; not just words, but words which lead to life change; 2 identifiers **1. become partakers of the divine nature**, focus of these promises not merely on us and what we need, but toward God who makes us secure, toward how He makes us secure, toward difference between the two kingdoms—which is other life identifier resulting from these promises **2. having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust**. seeing His glory through resulting promises brings change (fellowship in divine nature—characteristics of divine start being seen enabling us to escape corruption in world by lust; this is more dynamic/alive than we normally view salvation; flesh, spirit, new nature; **How would seeing participation in the divine nature more in relational terms than in ontological terms change our focus and how we live life if we are truly saved?** focused not merely on transaction, **focused on God who gives life and then life we live enabled by God Himself**; saw this through quick look at what took place relationally b/n God and OT people of God--Care, way forward, but also job—represent Him—you were NOT to be like others, but to display glories of God—didn't, mess like passages like Deut. 29:4, 17-21, therefore song of Moses filled w warnings; hope for all this is NOT in separating from sinful man, but in identifying w sinful man—corporate solidarity (I Cor. 15:22 as in Adam all die, so in Christ—Rom. 8 flesh/Spirit); **how perceive? Promises—WHO cares about covenants?**—ends with Jer. 31:31-34. **God changes heart** to know, to respond to God's law (life and godliness)—Jn. 3:5-8 born of Spirit, THAT is supernatural, from God ALONE, NOT YOU, **final beautiful picture of identity/corporate solidarity in Christ II Cor. 5:21**—**result?** see power and goodness of God, and then LIVE in light of that—focus in these verses is NOT on us BEING God, but something changing in disposition and perspective which is divine—THIS is work of God so that LIVE w holy sweat; **Ezek. 36:25-27**, deeds comes from new heart Obedience now a matter of heart change, not nature change—LOOK to Christ daily to live (Gal. 2:20 crucified w Christ, life I live in flesh, live by faith. etc.); **believing this, eyes on God of promises, looking to Christ as One who brought this, follow Him is a WAY OF LIFE** “The receiving of these promises by faith makes a wonderful change upon sinners: for so soon as a sinner gets grace to believe and apply the free promises of the Covenant, as soon does the Lord begin to make out upon his heart the things promised, so stamping it with His own image, that the sinner receiving these promises begins presently to look like God his Father, and in some weak measure to resemble Him in heavenly wisdom, holiness, uprightness, and other of His communicable properties, especially in humility, self-denial, love and pity toward other miserable sinners, zeal for the Lord's honour, and such other perfections as were eminent in the Man Christ; and this is to partake of the divine nature.” Nisbet Pp. 225-226 **THAT is what means that write laws on their heart, they will obey Rom. 8:4, Col. 3:10**, opposite side is fleeing and abhorring filthy fashions flowing from unmortified corruption of those yet living in nature Nisbet p. 226 **focus is on life of godliness—HOW IS THIS FOCUS ON GODLINESS different than how we often focus on godliness?** Cold, acts themselves, good/bad, reflect on us, leave us defending, protecting, existing; not focused on much deeper than what seen; this escape is process—beginning w conversion, but not ending there “Indeed, in the contemporary world we see that those who claim to have escaped from sin/desire once for all usually are self-deceived and often are cultic, controlling others who are not as 'perfect' as they are. Recognition that escape is a process brings a healthy humility to the follower of Jesus. It is this process of escape that leads directly to the call to grow in virtue in the next verse.” Peter Davids, p. 176 **next verses study what characterizes those who have become partakers of the divine nature--how are you living?** Life show dependence on Spirit of God? YES hard, YES discipline, but focus NOT on that, but on the God who calls us and enables through His own glory and excellence to live godly, to bring about His magnificent promises—LIVE w these in view; **IF healthy picture of regeneration leaves us focused on God instead of ourselves, What picture has emerged of God, Savior Jesus Christ? How is He portrayed? What should encourage you?** Holy (glory/excellence), trustworthy, gracious—provider; all power to live before Him in pleasing way; ALL comes through true knowledge of Him; “God has given Christians all that they need to become spiritually mature” Moo, p. 40 VERY important to see God as One providing ALL before come to next section vv. 5-9 **b/c here in vv. 1-4, focus where?** On God—glory and excellence seen in Christ, precious and magnificent promises lead to ALL needed for life and godliness (reverent loyal behavior that takes the form of characteristics of God b/c of Spirit inside so focus in life NOT on what you do—but on source of discipline and goals) **call to godliness NOT moralism or synergism (we do, God does, amazing results), but rooted in/secured by God's grace—His power supplies what he demands Schreiner, p. 290 fix your eyes on Him—it LIVES in purifying way Tit. 3:5-8, I Tim. 6:12, 17**

**Deuteronomy 29:4, 19-21** “Yet to this day the LORD has not given you a heart to know, nor eyes to see, nor ears to hear. <sup>19</sup> “It shall be when he hears the words of this curse, that he will boast, saying, ‘I have peace though I walk in the stubbornness of my heart in order to destroy the watered land with the dry.’ <sup>20</sup> “The LORD shall never be willing to forgive him, but rather the anger of the LORD and His jealousy will burn against that man, and every curse which is written in this book will rest on him, and the LORD will blot out his name from under heaven. <sup>21</sup> “Then the LORD will single him out for adversity from all the tribes of Israel, according to all the curses of the covenant which are written in this book of the law.

**Jeremiah 31:31-34** “Behold, days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, <sup>32</sup> not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them,” declares the LORD. <sup>33</sup> “But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days,” declares the LORD, “I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. <sup>34</sup> “They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them,” declares the LORD, “for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.”

**Ezekiel 36:25-27** “Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. <sup>26</sup> “Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. <sup>27</sup> “I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances.

**Romans 8:4** so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

**Colossians 3:10** and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him—

**1 Timothy 6:12** Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

**1 Timothy 6:17** 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.

**Titus 3:5-8** He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, <sup>6</sup> whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, <sup>7</sup> so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life. <sup>8</sup> This is a trustworthy statement; and concerning these things I want you to speak confidently, so that those who have believed God will be careful to engage in good deeds. These things are good and profitable for men.

## The LIFE of Relationship with God

### II Peter 1:5-7 Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, January 11, 2023 ???????

<sup>5</sup> Now for this very reason also, what reason? God has given the power to live godly lives—vv. 5-9 Christians need to LIVE godly lives—Schreiner notes indicative of God’s gift precede and undergirds imperative that calls for human exertion p. 296; strong language **applying all diligence**, or all effort (word speaking of earnestness, zeal, seriousness—idea of haste, do it NOW—same word in 1:10, 15, 3:14 where ends books w same emphasis) this is of utmost importance so must use ALL of your energy in this direction—applying—add to—speaks of expense needed for provision; sacrifice, effort, preparing—speaks of a progressive, active Christianity ie. **Rom. 6:11-14**;

#### I. Lived Wholeheartedly v. 5

In your faith, supply; before add anything, faith is what already possess—v. 1—the kind that looks to the God of vv. 3-4 THIS kind of faith that KNOWS God, becomes partaker of divine nature as it lives/escapes corruption in world by lust—THIS kind of faith is “the seedbed out of which Christian character grows.” Hiebert, p. 52 Kistemaker says that Christian lives virtuously by claiming God’s promises and avoiding corruption of the world; God has done, has provided—YOU live in light of this; every effort, This is life of **Phil. 2:12-13** where our work is subordinate to His work--faith with life, motion, growth-- **what does this look like practically to live claiming God’s promises and avoiding the corruption of the world? What connection do you see flowing from vv. 3-4 to attitude found in the first part of v. 5?** Nisbet says NOT content w little bit of these graces, but seek ALL of them “As it is not the ordinary diligence, wherewith most professors satisfy themselves, that will be blessed to make a thriving Christian; but such as goes through all means and waits upon all opportunities for profiting that their ability and calling will permit them to follow, gets the flower of a Christian’s wit, affections and time, which is here called, all diligence, so a Christian’s end in being thus diligent must not be his own credit before others, of the satisfaction of his conscience only, but that the exercise and fruits of one grace may be still added to another, and so Christ may be honoured in him and by him.” Nisbet pp. 226-227 --all diligence—Hiebert, “not an initial spasm followed by a chronic inertia” p. 50 diligent cultivation; **What would keep us from living with the focus and earnestness/zeal presented here in vv. 3-5a? Why would we start with a spasm and it end with “chronic inertia?”**

**Romans 5:3-5** And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; <sup>4</sup> and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; <sup>5</sup> and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

**Romans 6:11-14** Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus. <sup>12</sup> Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts, <sup>13</sup> and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. <sup>14</sup> For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

**Philippians 2:12-13** So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; <sup>13</sup> for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.

**James 2:20** But are you willing to recognize, you foolish fellow, that faith without works is useless?