

## The LIFE of Relationship with God Pt. 2

### II Peter 1:5-7 Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, January 18, 2023 Be Strong in the Lord

**CCEF CONFERENCE ONLINE** Book calling for life of godliness in face of false teaching, Right from greeting, high calling and identity for those in Christ—do you have/live these? **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** <sup>2</sup> 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 primary in Paul's mind as he continues, expounds on it **I. 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, through the true knowledge of Him; **How did He call us bringing about this relationship? By His own glory** how do you see it—through His excellence—relational part of power? those He called, He granted what is needed 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 of God seen through His excellent works as 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**, **2. having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust**. seeing His glory through resulting promises brings fellowship in divine nature—characteristics of divine start being seen enabling us to escape corruption in world by lust; salvation alive, focus not merely on transaction, **focused on God who gives life and then life we live enabled by God Himself**; **meditate on this picture!** **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; **VERY important to see God as One providing ALL as next verses study what characterizes those who have become partakers of the divine nature**; <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 **I. The Life of Relationship with God is Lived Wholeheartedly v. 5** **In your faith, supply**; faith is what already possess b/r add anything—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 ie. **Rom. 6:11-14** 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 subordinate to His work—faith required to produce 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?”** Garden, exercise, how many unfinished projects do you have, how many tools have you purchased for); must abandon sluggishness, self-indulgence, not selective, half-hearted; this attitude **natural response when see God vv. 3-4 way**, moves to action; it's a faith which grips Christ for pardon and strength and daily flies to Him for both, Nisbet; find yourself under; find Him doing; find He has purpose & you have part in THAT purpose; nothing in His creation just blah or free to “do whatever”

### II. Lived Specifically at Character Level vv. 5-7

**In your faith, supply**; This is not merely a naked faith—**Im. 2:20** works toward what? Sweat toward what? These things accompany saving faith--**What do we add/supply?** Chain that is literary form called sorites (sow--rites) chain culminating in a climax—pull from last word and add, climax is end (other lists, some chain **Rom. 5:3-5**, James 1:3-4, some list Gal. 5:22-23); **doubtful that we should see each virtue as building**, seems uses form for presentation rather than a logical development Davids; some flow from each other/dependent on others, **something related that ties characteristic to others**, but specific order doesn't seem to be focus—ALL result of conversion (trust in Christ); Green notes effort-bring all your energy to bear; imitate the character of their good benefactor; but for ALL called—display character in line w your noble birth—**lists of virtues reflect the worldview of the teachers of virtue**; Hence come to list **in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge**, <sup>6</sup> **and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance**, <sup>7</sup> **and in your perseverance, godliness**, <sup>7</sup> **and in your godliness, brotherly**

kindness, and in *your* brotherly kindness, love. First, how would you characterize these 7 characteristics? What would be important/necessary if you focused here? What accompanies these character qualities?

**John 15:12–17** “This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup> “Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends. <sup>14</sup> “You are My friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup> “No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you. <sup>16</sup> “You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and *that* your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you. <sup>17</sup> “This I command you, that you love one another.

**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?

**1 John 2:3–4** By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. <sup>4</sup> The one who says, “I have come to know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him;

**1 John 5:18** We know that no one who is born of God sins; but He who was born of God keeps him, and the evil one does not touch him.