

The LIFE of Relationship with God Pt. 4

II Peter 1:5-7 Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, February 15, 2023 Down at Your Feet

Now for this very reason also, what reason? God has given the power to live godly lives—NOW, vv. 5-9 shows the godly life Christians MUST LIVE, strong language applying all diligence, all effort (urgency, zeal, seriousness) **I. The Life of Relationship with God is Lived Wholeheartedly v. 5** faith leads to use ALL your energy in this direction **In your faith, supply**; certain kind of faith v. 1, that sees God as described in vv. 3-4; THIS kind of faith is “the seedbed out of which Christian character grows.” Hiebert, p. 52 salvation alive, focus not merely on transaction, **focused on God who gives life and then life we live enabled by God Himself**; it’s a faith which grips Christ for pardon and strength and daily flies to Him for both, Nisbet; **are you heading this direction? Seeing HIM present and doing and HIS salvation giving you purpose and part in THAT DOING?**

II. Lived Specifically at Character Level vv. 5-7 In your faith, supply; This faith shows effort, sweat toward specific values/goals; These things accompany saving faith—chain, literary form called sorites (sow--rites) some flow from each other/dependent on others, **but specific order doesn’t seem to be focus**; seems uses form for presentation rather than a logical development Davids; Green notes **lists of virtues [like this] reflect the worldview of the teachers of virtue**; remember benefactor language—He has provided all needed for life/godliness, ALL called display character in line w your noble birth Green, ALL result of conversion (trust in Christ); we worked hard to characterize list W/O focusing on surroundings; **how would you characterize these 7 characteristics? Where do they live? What accompanies them? What would be important/necessary if you focused here?** worked through first word-- **1. Moral Excellence** applied to Christ in v. 3 NOW to growing believer—excellence of character, mastery in field, here moral, virtue—Calvin-life rightly formed; properly fulfills purpose/function; Green, deeds worthy of public mention; surpassing what normal constraints of duty demand—focusing on how attitude of heart lives among others; implies you purposely living among others; **Nisbet noted need other virtues to head in this direction you mentioned ones like honesty, trustworthy, patient, integrity, wisdom, standard outside of you showing humility.** Time management, ability to focus, break down task and follow through to completion, but then ones following, like **2. Knowledge** ability to discern God’s will and orient one’s life in accordance with that will **Moo II Pet. 3:18**; takes effort to study Scriptures II Tim. 2:15 diligent/workman/rightly dividing; result is practical rather than speculative knowledge; **must use minds to know moral quality of people we meet, to know how WE ought to act and change at heart level**; **do you collect knowledge of God & His will? How? What do you do w it?** “knowledge, including knowledge of Scripture, that is not turned into practical action, that does not produce the character of God/Jesus in one’s life, is worse than useless, for it can blind one to his or her true sorry state.” Davids, p. 180 unlike Stoics, knowledge NOT foundation of one’s ethical life, but knowledge rooted in God’s grace, Schreiner—remember ALL of these result of faith; something HE gives, personal knowledge coming inside relationship; **if THIS is the case, on what is our growth in true knowledge dependent? On trust in God (Kistmaker), then will obey—take His warnings and promises for blessing seriously; “God says” has weight—like child, it’s enough; I Jn. 2:3-4, 5:18** like Jesus, live for will of Father; **The will to do God’s will enables a man to know whether teaching is from God, Hiebert Jn. 15:12-17** **3. Self-control** knowing God rightly results in conduct marked by restraint--enables to avoid temptations—eyes II Pet. 2:14, mouth 2:12, sexual desire 2:2, 14, 18; licentiousness 2:7, 18, lawlessness 2:8, unprincipled/corrupt 2:7, 3:17, 1:4, 2:12, 19—**enticement of sinful desires strong** Aristotle said, “The unrestrained man does things that he knows to be evil, under the influence of passion, whereas the self-restrained man, knowing that his desires are evil, refuses to follow them on principle.” “The self-restrained man is the man who abides by the results of his calculations, the unrestrained one who readily abandons the conclusion he has reached.” Green, p.193 abides by the results of his calculations--remember, TRUE KNOWLEDGE, **I Pet. 1:14** lust/ignorance together; therefore, Nisbet notes, self-control necessary because of unruly passions and affections that will keep you from your duty, cloud your reason, mars the exercise of faith—must have command over passions of anger, fear, grief, etc. **tied to faith (not naked faith), doesn’t come from within yourself—self-control is fruit of Spirit; Spirit enables continued gaze/focus on God who has purpose and promises all the way through which allow you to focus on His will in face of attraction of other desires—Rom. 7:1-6** freedom to yield to another Master which as rest of chapter shows doesn’t eliminate the Law, **vv. 12-13**, setting up dichotomy b/n flesh Spirit that chapter 8 answers **giving possibility of another outcome then perpetual self-centered failure or success which false teachers would enable by freeing to follow own desires AND be godly; Are you living w checks on your thoughts/desires? Proof that these come from continual gaze at God and use of His means of fighting flesh?** As we continue through these, not theoretical anymore—THESE objects of full energy—**what happens to these focuses in our daily lives? Where do they fit throughout our day, even in our desire to live and please God?** **4. Perseverance** Not patience like KJV, but Endurance, whereas lack of self-control leads to distraction/devastation by own lusts, this deals w heaviness of sorrows/afflictions—ability to bear up (2 Greek words—under, remain), to continue under pressure; where do you turn? Yes, to God, but do you stay there? This is where I question the role of pistachios in my life (friends, spouse, tv, etc.)—perhaps all good things, but make sure STAY before God—how long, O LORD will I cry to Thee day and night—go through pressure w/o answer treasuring fellowship of God—Lk. 18 prayer—this is how we ALWAYS ought to pray and not lose heart **Moo, all pressures call for need to cultivate God-dependent endurance Rev. 13:10**, remember chain in Rom. 5 result of justification? Testing of faith Rom. 5:3-4? PRODUCES ENDURANCE—look to God and STAY THERE **Lk. 21:16-19**; SO thankful for resources written focusing not merely on escaping the trial, but valuing ALL God has for us IN the trial, namely treasure of Himself and eternal

promises! He is in control of chaos, pain, immorality, confusion; HERE—Green notes, focus not so much on affliction as much as need for moral steadfastness and avoiding the pull of the false teachers; they SO pervasive—people, YOUR FRIENDS going after them—why? offering something more precious/more alive, more livable **II Pet. 2:2, 2:20-22** NO, persevere even when seems impossible, therefore, idea of courage/hope here; **Blum EBC** views time w God's eyes 3:8 while waiting for Christ's return and for punishment of sin faith—eyes on Christ perseverance, **Lk. 8:15, Heb. 12:1-3**

Luke 8:15 “But the *seed* in the good soil, these are the ones who have heard the word in an honest and good heart, and hold it fast, and bear fruit with perseverance.

Luke 21:16-19 “But you will be betrayed even by parents and brothers and relatives and friends, and they will put *some* of you to death, ¹⁷ and you will be hated by all because of My name. ¹⁸ “Yet not a hair of your head will perish. ¹⁹ “By your endurance you will gain your lives.

John 15:12-17 “This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. ¹³ “Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends. ¹⁴ “You are My friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵ “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. ¹⁶ “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. ¹⁷ “This I command you, that you love one another.

Romans 8:4, 12-13 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. ¹² So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— ¹³ for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

Ephesians 4:22-24 that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, ²³ and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, ²⁴ and put on the new self, which in the *likeness* of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.

Philippians 2:13 for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for *His* good pleasure.

1 Timothy 6:11 But flee from these things, you man of God, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance *and* gentleness.

Hebrews 2:11 For both He who sanctifies and those who are sanctified are all from one *Father*; for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren,

Hebrews 12:1-3 Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

1 Peter 1:14-16 As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts *which were yours* in your ignorance, ¹⁵ but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all *your* behavior; ¹⁶ because it is written, “YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY.”

1 John 2:3-4 By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. ⁴ 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.

Revelation 13:10 If anyone *is destined* for captivity, to captivity he goes; if anyone kills with the sword, with the sword he must be killed. Here is the perseverance and the faith of the saints.