

The LIFE of Relationship with God Pt. 3

II Peter 1:5-7 Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, February 8, 2023 Down at Your Feet

Book calling for life of godliness in face of false teaching, Right from greeting, high calling and identity for those in Christ—THIS relationship between God and man tying them together primary in Paul's mind as he begins, showing **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—saving 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; THIS leads to seeing **II. Glories of God's Faithful Enablement v. 4** For by these—seems to refer to glory of God seen through His excellent works as means by which we are granted/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**, seeing His glory through resulting promises brings fellowship in divine nature—characteristics of divine start being seen enabling us to **2. escape the corruption that is in the 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**; ⁵ Now for this very reason also, what reason? God has given the power to live godly lives—NOW, vv. 5-9 Christians need to LIVE godly lives, strong language **applying all diligence**, or all effort (word speaking of earnestness, zeal, seriousness—idea of haste, do it NOW) this is of utmost importance so must use ALL of your energy in this direction **I. The Life of Relationship with God is Lived Wholeheartedly v. 5** In your faith, supply; the kind of faith that comes from God, seeing God as described in vv. 3-4 is kind of faith that 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; you MUST think about what this looks 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? Then thought about Hiebert's description—all diligence means 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?” 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; are you heading this direction? Seeing HIM present and doing and HIS salvation giving you purpose and part in THAT DOING; 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—chain, literary form called sorites (sow--rites)—pull from last word and add, climax is end; 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 lists of virtues reflect the worldview of the teachers of virtue; focus on good benefactor that has given all this; ALL called display character in line w your noble birth—Hence come to list 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. First, how would you characterize these 7 characteristics? Where do they live? What accompanies them? What would be important/necessary if you focused here? Let's take what obvious, then expand/clarify—**1. Moral Excellence** goodness, arete, applied to Christ in v. 3 NOW to growing believer—excellence, mastery in field, here moral—Calvin-life rightly formed; properly fulfills purpose/function; Green, deeds worthy of public mention; generosity toward others, surpassing what normal constraints of duty demand—focusing on how attitude of heart lives among others—socially engaged; Nisbet brought out reality that we need other virtues to head in this direction—can you think of some? 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**; must use minds, know moral quality of people we meet; practical rather than speculative knowledge “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—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 (Kistemaker), then 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**

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.
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.
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. 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.