

## The LIFE of Relationship with God Pt. 6

### II Peter 1:5-7 Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, March 1, 2023 Psalm 62

Now for this very reason also, what reason? God has given the power to live godly lives—vv. 5-9 shows the godly life Christians MUST LIVE, applying all diligence, all effort (urgency, zeal) **I. The Life of Relationship with God is Lived Wholeheartedly v. 5** the faith of v. 1, the kind that sees God as described in vv. 3-4 leads to using ALL your energy, holy sweat focused on these goals, **In your faith, supply**; These things accompany saving faith, ALL result of conversion (trust in Christ) **II. Lived Specifically at Character Level vv. 5-7** **1. Moral Excellence**—Calvin-life rightly formed; applied to Christ in v. 3 NOW to growing believer; Green, deeds worthy of public mention; surpassing what normal constraints of duty demand; **2. Knowledge** ability to discern God's will and orient one's life in accordance with that will Moo; takes effort to study Scriptures II Tim. 2:15 style, diligent/workman/rightly dividing; result is practical rather than speculative knowledge; about yourself, about them (false vs. true) about godly change, growth “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 **Do you collect knowledge of God & His will? How? What do you do w it?** unlike Stoics, knowledge NOT foundation of one's ethical life, but knowledge rooted in God's grace, Schreiner—ALL these result of faith; something HE gives, come inside relationship; **THIS is the case, growth in true knowledge dependent** On trust in God (Kistmaker), look outside of self to Him, then take His warnings and promises for blessing seriously—obey His truth; **3. Self-control** conduct marked by restraint—enticement of sinful desires strong, Nisbet, speaks 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. **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** **Are you living w checks on your thoughts/desires? Proof that these checks come from continual gaze at God and use of His means of fighting flesh?** **4. Perseverance** lack of self-control leads to distraction/devastation by own lusts, lack of perseverance leads to failure to remain under through heaviness of sorrows/afflictions—where do you look to continue under pressure? to God? but do you stay there? HERE, the affliction/sorrow comes b/c of the pull of false teachers—divides fellowship, changes focus of study, worship, life together, breaks apart families—just like we've seen covid, politics, eating choices, personality quirks do for us in recent years; **perseverance speaks not merely of faithfulness even when seems impossible, but courage/hope that comes from treasuring fellowship w God**; focus on the God who calls us to unity of faith and knowledge of Son of God rather than barriers so can value ALL God has for us IN the trial, namely treasure of Himself and eternal promises! **Blum EBC** perseverance resulting from faith views time w God's eyes 3:8 while waiting for Christ's return and for punishment of sin Can grow and worship instead of shrivel and grumpy under trial; **last week** said that as focus on our effort and what we/others can see, must watch danger of Schreiner—moralism and Ben Franklin approach to Christian life where concentrate for period of time on particular virtue, master, then move to next—invitation to self-effort instead of dependence upon God; godliness is rooted in and dependent on God's grace p. 296 something from God—then looked at touchy topic of free-will **(DON'T try to solve it all at once—but don't let it be lightning rod so can't hear what said on either side—takes while to figure if what saying what you/they mean AND how fits together w other pieces of Scripture; ALL w goal of not being RIGHT or Calvinist/Arminian, but in bringing glory to God by portraying Him more accurately)**—**“I** may, however, be here asked, Whether Peter, by assigning to us the work of supplying or adding virtue, thus far extolled the strength and power of free-will? They who seek to establish free-will in man, indeed concede to God the first place, that is, that he begins to act or work in us; but they imagine that we at the same time co-operate, and that it is thus owing to us that the movements of God are not rendered void and inefficacious. But the perpetual doctrine of Scripture is opposed to this delirious notion: for it plainly testifies, that right feelings are formed in us by God, and are rendered by him effectual. It testifies also that all our progress and perseverance are from God. Besides, it expressly declares that wisdom, love, patience, are the gifts of God and the Spirit. When, therefore, the Apostle requires these things, he by no means asserts that they are in our power, but only shews what we ought to have, and what ought to be done. And as to the godly, when conscious of their own infirmity, they find themselves deficient in their duty, nothing remains for them but to flee to God for aid and help.” Calvin pp. 373-374 Do NOT solve the “free will” issue, but if THIS is part of what THIS author means by term, then where is the focus in this discussion? **IF this is true, where is the delineation between our effort and God's work? What is His job and what is ours?** His is to make holy—what He is calling for from us is not attainable by us--(**Rom. 8:4, 13, Phil. 2:13, Heb. 2:11** GOD makes holy, WE by faith (place look, lean, trust) choose/sweat/live to be holy--**I Pet. 1:13-16, Rom. 8:12-13, Eph. 4:22-24, Phil. 2:12-13**) Ours to look to Him, trust His words—**what does this mean?** Warnings heeded, HIS goals, not our substitutes—ie. Holy AS I AM holy—then look to Him; **IF** by the Spirit—look to everything Spirit to be for us; do well to pay attention II Pet. 1:19, as Moo notes in his handling of this subject, **“We must insist both that it is God, by his Spirit, who makes us holy and that it is we, ourselves, who have the job of becoming holy.”** P. 58 dangerous to fail to balance these two and MOST concerned about sinful tendency for effort WE put to leave focus on us even when desire to give glory to God—fosters self-centered holiness (protect self, find safe places, OR focused on self when failure—all pulls you away from God/other believers, mission to the world--not sacrificial displaying of God's glory in every situation); **therefore, if ALL these character qualities are results of healthy faith, focus of those converted, fit together like an embryo; how would we focus our energies on these character traits in way that would evidence the work of God—a result of faith, meaning effort IN God's presence? What might that include OR what would be signs that our/their change is NOT a result of God's power or inside living relationship with God?**

**Mark 3:31-35** Then His mother and His brothers arrived, and standing outside they sent word to Him and called Him. <sup>32</sup> A crowd was sitting around Him, and they said to Him, “Behold, Your mother and Your brothers are outside looking for You.” <sup>33</sup> Answering them, He said, “Who are My mother and My brothers?” <sup>34</sup> Looking about at those who were sitting around Him, He said, “Behold My mother and My brothers! <sup>35</sup> “For whoever does the will of God, he is My brother and sister and mother.”

**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, <sup>17</sup> and you will be hated by all because of My name. <sup>18</sup> “Yet not a hair of your head will perish. <sup>19</sup> “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. <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 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. <sup>12</sup> So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—<sup>13</sup> 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.

**Romans 12:10** Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor;

**Galatians 6:10** So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.

**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,<sup>23</sup> and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind,<sup>24</sup> 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 Thessalonians 4:9–10** Now as to the love of the brethren, you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another;<sup>10</sup> for indeed you do practice it toward all the brethren who are in all Macedonia. But we urge you, brethren, to excel still more,

**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,<sup>2</sup> 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.<sup>3</sup> For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

**1 Peter 1:13–16** Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

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

**1 Peter 1:22** Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart,

**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.