

THE LIFE OF RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD PT. 6

II Peter 1:5-11

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I. Lived Wholeheartedly v. 5a

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- I. Lived Wholeheartedly v. 5a**
- II. Lived Specifically at Character Level vv. 5b-7**

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“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.”

Peter Davids

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“It 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.

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John Calvin

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To the extent the basic idea of John Calvin's thought is true, where is the delineation between our effort and God's work? What is His job and what is ours?

- Jn. 15, 1 Cor. I – we can't drum up courage/blessings – but need to be willing – be in the place where God can work these things
- Farmer provides seed and works the farm, God brings harvest – must guard mind/heart and where we focus
- Less about a line between but instead our agency embedded in His grace – watch line that demands clear categories in way that belittles it
- God desires His goodness reflected in us but not in a way that brings the focus back on us
- Be careful about “simple shapes” when need some holy wonder because of divine complexity
- Our perspective vs. His, John 6:29 – His words hard to take/understand. But we are called to believe, to seek Him, Matt. 5 - poor in spirit, mourn, not sufficient in themselves.
- Must always have both in mind as we live by faith or not obeying

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To the extent the basic idea of John Calvin's thought is true, where is the delineation between our effort and God's work? What is His job and what is ours? (CONTINUED)

- Sword of the God and Gideon/David's mighty men defeated many – and the Lord brought a great victory
- Gal. 2:20
- God initiates ever our works in us
- God glorified through faith – Heb. 11:6, disciples in boat – reprov'd for lack of faith
- Seems hard to separate the two
- Eph. 4:17-24 – identity with Christ, Rom. 6

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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. 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.

Romans 8:4, 13

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Romans 8:4, 13

for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.

Philippians 2:13

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Romans 8:4, 13

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Philippians 2:13

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 2:11

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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. **14 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 Peter 1:13–16

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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.

Romans 8:12-13

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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. Ephesians 4:22–24

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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; 13 for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.

Philippians 2:12-13

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“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.”

Douglas Moo

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II PETER 1:5-11

How would we focus our energies on these character traits in a 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 our growth is NOT a result of God's power or inside living relationship with God?

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But flee from these things, you man of God, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness.

1 Timothy 6:11

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Thoughts on godliness and our responsibility to pursue it?

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

Mark 3:31-35

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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,**

1 Peter 1:22

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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,**

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Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor;

Romans 12:10

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Romans 12:10

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;** **10** 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 Thessalonians 4:9-10**

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What does family love include?

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**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.**

Galatians 6:10

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Thoughts on brotherly-kindness/familial love and your responsibility as result of a gaze at Christ?

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What crosses your mind as you hear these four essential virtues opened and displayed?

- Who is God?
- These are valuable/precious provisions for fight against sin
- Apart from faith that looks to Christ, these will not aid fellowship with God and accomplishing His will
- These won't come without examination
- Demands humility and prayer – includes failure requiring identity in Christ to be developed
- How does Christ in me change perspective on life (confession/repentance)
- Has to come through the eyes of faith

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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?

- Compete with other habits, so lose focus on them
- Content with amount we have of many of them
- Must connect these to our desire to live to please God; they are attached to divine nature God saved you to share; must ask Him to change our will
- These get lost in “fleshly” moments of day; takes “mind of Christ” to see them throughout daily tasks
- Perhaps so afraid we can't get it, that we miss the resources God has given to work these in our lives