

The LIFE of Relationship with God Pt. 7

II Peter 1:5-7 Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, March 15, 2023 ?????

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** In your faith, supply 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, 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; not merely knowledge, but knowledge applied/lived, godly change, growth—able to tell true teacher from false, know what to do w all people around influenced by false; **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. **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; perseverance speaks not merely of faithfulness even when seems impossible, but courage/hope that comes from treasuring fellowship w God; talked about danger when focus on our effort and what we/others 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—continued work on “free-will” (where is the line, etc.) as feel weight of us/God—if God, why not happening? If us, then no God—YES, not clear line—all our effort comes in sphere of grace of God—He wants us to reflect Him but not in way that focus on us matt. 5:16; so many good pieces you brought up; didn't SOLVE issue, but added to thought as looked at both work of God and His commands to us God makes holy—what He is calling for from us is not attainable by us—(Rom. 8:4, 13, Heb. 2:11) WE by faith focus/sweat/act in accord w commands to be holy; Result of this faith that looks to God is life changing to look like character of God, 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; Step back, fully balanced Biblical Picture represented by Moo, “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 with any part of this picture, AND b/c we see dimly, sin daily, must look for where WE out of balance and focus on this before REBALANCE; remember Powlison in “How Does Sanctification Work” “How can we think about progressive sanctification in a way that generates ministry traction? Here is a core premise: Ministry ‘unbalances’ truth for the sake of relevance; theology ‘rebalances’ truth for the sake of comprehensiveness. Put another way, because you can only say one thing at a time, a timely word must be a selective word focusing on the need of the moment. And this selective focus produces a kind of imbalance. But stepping back from the need of the moment, many things can be said, and this larger theological picture helps us maintain balance. The whole truth is as wide as human experience, as deep as the human heart, and as unfathomable as the God who weighs all things and intervenes in all things.” Pp. 33-34 (this is the “but” that can keep us from growth—Cindy recommends “How People Change” by Tim Lane) HERE, MOST concerned about sinful tendency 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, 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? vv. 3-4, promises, something about His character that holds attention—gives grace to you, then to those around while pursuing; **5. Godliness** only here and I Tim. 6:11, Remember from look at same word in v. 3, idea of demonstration of due reverence and loyalty to those over you/fellow citizens—loyalty to God and to the community in which the readers are embedded; Green fulfill your duty—focused on highest duty, deity, God Himself; so attitude of reverence that seeks to please God in every area of life; whereas moral excellence focused on acts themselves that were seen, this word focused more on gaze of heart (toward God), brings sanctifying presence of God into all experiences of life—keeps from becoming hard and defiant to opposers and stoic in faithfulness, Hiebert, godly faith pursues godliness—reverence from living Coram Deo—from Latin Vulgate ie. Ps. 56:13; revival talks in Asbury, Cedarville, etc.—time will tell (danger to focus on experience, or emotions, BUT seeking contentment, life, direction, worship in the face of God WILL affect behavior INCLUDING place of God's word/will in determining value in life; Like fruit of Spirit leads to external actions that are godly, contra deeds of flesh Gal. 5, seen in II Pet. 2:1-2, 18-22 as those denying Lord as seen by teaching/actions; but Noah/Lot lived godly lives in face of ungodliness 2:5, 7; must look deep w Lot, b/c our first thoughts toward Lot NOT righteous; talking about inward graces, motives resulting from reverence of God; godly faith that gazes at Christ b/c trust Him, dependent on Him to keep us in

fellowship w God, Christ's return drives this **II Pet. 3:11**; **THIS faith is gift of God**; **THAT's why says, God's power given everything needed for godliness v. 3**; **are you diligent to cultivate reverence?** **Thoughts on godliness?**

Matthew 22:40 "On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets."

Mark 3:31-35 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."

Romans 5:5-8 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. ⁶ For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. ⁸ But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

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.

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

Romans 13:8 Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled *the* law.

1 Corinthians 8:1-3 Now concerning things sacrificed to idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge makes arrogant, but love edifies. ² If anyone supposes that he knows anything, he has not yet known as he ought to know; ³ but if anyone loves God, he is known by Him.

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, 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 2:12-13 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; ¹³ for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for *His* good pleasure.

Colossians 3:14 Beyond all these things *put on* love, which is the perfect bond of unity.

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; 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 Timothy 1:5-6 But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. ⁶ For some men, straying from these things, have turned aside to fruitless discussion,

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,

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.

¹⁴As 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 1:22 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,