

The LIFE of Relationship with God Pt. 8

II Peter 1:5-9 Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, March 22, 2023 Let Us Walk in the Light

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, **I. The Life of Relationship with God is Lived Wholeheartedly v. 5** In your faith, supply the faith of v. 1 that sees God as described in vv. 3-4 leads to using ALL your energy, holy sweat focused on these things that accompany saving faith, **II. Lived Specifically at Character Level vv. 5-7** **1. Moral Excellence**—Calvin-life rightly formed; **2. Knowledge** ability to discern God's will and orient one's life in accordance with that will Moo; **3. Self-control** 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** ability to remain under through heaviness of sorrows/afflictions—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; **5. Godliness** 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, attitude of reverence from living **Coram Deo**—from Latin Vulgate ie. Ps. 56:13—seeks to please God in every area of life; 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**; seems impossible? Remember v. 3—HIS divine power given everything needed for godliness; **are you diligent to desire reverence as you gaze at Christ?** **6. Brotherly Kindness** Philadelphia—love of brother; Moo reiterated what I've begun to hear all over; we have overstated the different kinds of love in Bible (MUCH focus in trying to figure out Peter/Jesus conversation in Jn. 21), words do NOT have an invariable/fixed meaning as definitions overlap—ie. agape is NOT an exclusively Christian word; meanings overlap as some scholars went to great length to show, BUT context can give clues—here, standard thought fits—family love that characterizes believers while unbelieving physical kin were treated as outsiders (Davids) **Mk. 3:31-35** true faith includes diligence in this area—can NOT be faithful to God and seek to be solitary **I Pet. 1:22, Rom. 12:10, I Thess. 4:9-10**—what does family love include? THEY don't display it **II Pet. 2:13-14, 17**; Devotion, loyalty, purity (Rom. 16:16 greet w holy kiss), ownership for good and bad—so spend much time thinking about pieces b/c must continue to own even when cause great sorrow—you associated with them, therefore, it behooves you to work on it (better PR if can say anything better); but not merely right/wrong good feelings/bad, but a kindness/compassion that comes b/c must live w them after make truth claims, they part of you; share much w you (roots, experiences); part of your identity; so Nisbet says it includes, kindly and tender affection toward all who are Christians—sympathizing with them in trouble, supplying their necessities, edifying their souls, studying to promote their spiritual and temporal welfare as able in this season of life; gift from God to have this tie—Davids pagans noted this and despises them for treating each other as family (Me: can you think of examples of this?)—yet natural for those sharing same birth from above; but also, to deny it is to deny your “in Christ” status—I John 3:13-18, 4:16-17, 19-21; Green—focus on solidarity and collaboration b/n members even though reality doesn't measure up to this ideal; NOT at war, you are FOR them, therefore intentional acts of goodness/preservation b/c tied together; **Gal. 6:10** best books on conflict bring this up that even when wrongs done and mess, stop me/you, get on same side of table—how are WE going to fix this; so Davids, brotherly kindness NIV restricting, not same as familial love or kinship affection **Thoughts on brotherly-kindness and your responsibility as gaze at Christ?** **7. Love** moves beyond brethren as one sphere of love to the Spirit-given act of will by which we treat other people w active benevolence, Moo—**Col. 3:14** Remember, that while not totally dependent on order, fitting that climaxes w love—mark of believer as have seen in I Jn; Matt. 22:37-39 greatest command love Lord, then love neighbor, **Matt. 22:40, Matt. 5:44** love enemies, **Rom. 13:8** that's why teaching doctrine MUST LEAD to more relational—more active love toward those around you; **I Tim. 1:5-6** ie. **Just read article in World about prisoners training dogs for special needs** or pound dogs for pets—result was more purpose and kinder treatment of others—how much more learning about God—HE is relational and shown by love toward you! **Rom. 5:5-8** THIS is well from which you love! Schreiner, “Anyone who loves will possess the other qualities Peter mentioned.” p. 301 it is work **I Thess. 1:3, 3:9-13, 4:10** **Are you busy about the work of seeking the welfare of those in spheres God has ordained you to be part?** if little love to give, gaze at God—worship His acts on your behalf—YES, culminating in finished work of Christ, but then in your claim to be His and so sloppy gazing at Him or thinking it all rests on you—HIS faithful love toward you THEN; this knowledge calls for a response—NOT first toward others, but toward God! **I Cor. 8:1-3**; Davids notes that Paul not against knowledge, just knowledge w/o love; then look around and don't fix—move toward, NOT based on their desirability, but on God's faithful love to you! your love toward them won't fit, will

expose your selfishness and demand for results and others to join you; deal with that by looking to God! THIS is path of II Pet. 1:4 being partakers of the divine nature; **Thoughts on love as result of your gaze at Christ?** Hiebert reminds that all these qualities won't be fully developed in each person, but cannot focus on one to neglect of others; effort not apart from, but flowing from work of God **Phil. 2:12-13**—effort IN God's presence; any final thing would add as think about focus here? **What happens to focus on these during day?** (here's what said, what add?) if not, show we have another means of life, growth, goals—His goals will include these; **here's what said on next question, what add?** **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? REMEMBER—ALL for life/godliness resulting from true knowledge of Jesus, **what will this do for these characteristics?** Makes you look to Him for them, pray for, and when lacking; it is HERE that His power sustains and enables, therefore, He gets glory, you more like Him—leads to next two verses

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 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 5:10–11 trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹ Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them;

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.

Philippians 3:19–20 whose end is destruction, whose god is *their* appetite, and *whose* glory is in their shame, who set their minds on earthly things. ²⁰ For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ;

Colossians 2:2–3 that their hearts may be encouraged, having been knit together in love, and *attaining* to all the wealth that comes from the full assurance of understanding, *resulting* in a true knowledge of God's mystery, *that is*, Christ *Himself*, ³ in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

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

1 Thessalonians 3:12 and may the Lord cause you to increase and abound in love for one another, and for all people, just as we also *do* for you;

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,

2 Thessalonians 1:3 We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brethren, as is *only* fitting, because your faith is greatly enlarged, and the love of each one of you toward one another grows *ever* greater;

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.

Titus 3:14 Our people must also learn to engage in good deeds to meet pressing needs, so that they will not be unfruitful.

James 3:17–18 But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy. ¹⁸ And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

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,

1 Peter 2:12 Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe *them*, glorify God in the day of visitation.