

The LIFE of Relationship with God Pt. 9

II Peter 1:8-9 Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, March 29, 2023 389 More About Jesus

Men's Fellowship—p. 171 Ministering to Faith – p. 182 top; **Andrew Peterson** 7 tickets; Now for this very reason also, what reason? God has given the power to live godly lives, **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** **2. Knowledge** **3. Self-control** **4. Perseverance** **5. Godliness** **6. Brotherly Kindness** **7. Love** 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; **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; These answers lead to next verses which uncover another essential piece of life inside relationship with God

III. Lived with God's Goals for Growth, Not Yours vv. 8-9

Peter rejoiced/worshipped power of God, His work in salvation in giving you faith; making them His, changing their lives; Now, exhorting them, reminding them that MUST focus here; **now, from wherever you are w focus here, gives incentive**—focusing on value/delight resulting from effort this way; command is enough, but God gives desire (don't neglect either—command, or seeking WHO would desire these things and why?)

A. Positive Incentive for Effort Toward These Goals v. 8

⁸ For if these *qualities* are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. these *qualities* vv. 5-7; *yours*—characterized in your life, you own them—THIS is what you seek, imitate, talk about; then James not hear, but DO—**increasing**—yes, discernable, but more, verb implies to point of excess, abound, overflow; way of life, THIS is part of your character **they render you neither useless nor unfruitful** lazy, do not work—idle, word used in Matt. 20:3,6 parable of workers (standing idle in marketplace—gives them a job) so not USELESS in society; **not mean do nothing, but also whatever do adds up to nothing/meaningless**; THIS verse mentions these words in negative, but point of verse focusing on process/way of living that is useful/bearing fruit; parable of soils—WE focus on bad soils, but good soil is where fruit—THIS fruitful, productive life is focus; **who cares about being useful/fruitful? What feelings, identity issues addressed here?** But there is specific sphere of identity and usefulness; SOCIETY may deem you useful/fruitful, see it in obituaries, but GOD may say useless/unfruitful; THIS sphere only one that matters, **in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ**. not talking about empty facts, but life—this is where you live—this shows you belong in this world—in God's world—remember what godliness v. 3, v. 6 is? Acts responding from reverence to deity—these result of God's power, faith that gets these by looking to Him, why? **Col. 2:2-3**, therefore, growing in this knowledge and trust His precious and magnificent promises—effort IN RELATIONSHIP as desire to know more and more about Him; THIS brings noticeable change that SHOWS divine nature v. 4 **I Thess. 3:12, II Thess. 1:3**—OTHERS see evidence—this fits w **I Pet. 2:12**; others not only see, but benefit from it, **Tit. 3:14** same word; NOT on own, in isolation; **when do we stop increasing?** When think have enough or think not valuable—THIS points to fact that NEVER have enough but way of life that keeps adding more—takes focus, effort; **meant for display, lived b/r and benefit other people; what makes these qualities seem even more difficult when tied to relationships God has given us?** Seems to work against them, period; redefines them; **What hope and courage does verse 8 give to keep going?** When can't live with/before THEM, remember, these virtues also produced inside relationship, effort here IS result of growing in true knowledge of God/Christ; **Blum EBC—knowledge of God is beginning, continuance, and goal of Christian life; Jn. 15:1-11 abide/bear fruit; therefore focus MUST be on relationship with God, not merely these virtues—THAT knowledge tested by presence/absence of growing in these virtues;**

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.

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;

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;

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