

THE LIFE OF RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD PT. 10

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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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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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
- Not even there
- Other voices like fear of man, performance, self-centeredness, own logic
- When “grow up” with these, then set a standard- we are center & neglect to look higher – scripture, God of scripture
- Not aware that there is more/ can’t handle what we have, so don’t want more
- Takes diligence, intention
- Can’t check these off list – must be constantly on our minds so we continue to focus on them
- Forget the means & motive for them & try to do on our own

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- I. Lived Wholeheartedly v. 5a**
- II. Lived Specifically at Character Level vv. 5b-7**
- III. Lived with God's Goals for Growth, Not Yours vv. 8-9**

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For I want you to know how great a struggle I have on your behalf and for those who are at Laodicea, and for all those who have not personally seen my face, 2 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 2:1-3

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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 3:12

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;

2 Thessalonians 1:3

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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. **1 Peter 2:12**

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

Titus 3:14

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These qualities are meant for display. They are lived before and benefit other people. What makes these qualities seem even more difficult when tied to relationships God has given us?

- When it involves others
- Makes it easy to look at ourselves & our performance instead of gaze of faith in Christ & His provisions
- We notice the failures so easy for us to feel inadequate & why try
- Because relationships make them even more impossible
- In face of possible failure, retreat so not on display
- Different between law & grace
- Proves that it is real when has to be lived in front of /with people
- Easy to redefine God's values based on whom we are with

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What hope inspiring courage to keep going with effort toward vv. 5-7 virtues do we find in verse 8?

- The true knowledge of Jesus Christ
- That same place where knowledge of Christ seems fruitless also contains roots for fruitful living
- There is a picture of journey/process in w/c we still impact for Christ while He is working
- Encouragement that can have while we don't have
- Hope that God wants to work these things in my life & ask Him to do His desire
- Becomes what we worship – too easily look somewhere else look back to Him

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To whom would verse 8 be incentive to keep going in the direction of vv. 5-7? (describe this person—what would they value)

- Someone who cares about God's opinion
- Someone tired of focus on me – want a pure faith
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trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. 11 Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them; Ephesians 5:10-11

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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.

James 3:17-18

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“Some of the most effective Christians I have known are people without dramatic talents and special abilities, or even exciting personalities; yet God has used them in a marvelous way. Why? Because they are becoming more and more like Jesus Christ. They have the kind of character and conduct that God can trust with blessing. They are fruitful because they are faithful; they are effective because they are growing in their Christian experience.”

Warren Wiersbe

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If these qualities are yours/increasing, “you will at length prove that Christ is really known by you for the knowledge of Christ is an efficacious thing and a living root, which brings forth fruit.”

"Those who possess Christ without newness of life, have never been rightly taught his doctrine." John Calvin

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John Calvin

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;

Philippians 3:19–20

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 - B. Negative Results for Failure to Pursue These Goals v. 9**

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 - 1. You can't see.**

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Why/How/In what way is this person blind/short-sighted? Where are they focused and what do they miss even if they try to accept God's words and will and seek to live by them?

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but the worries of the world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it becomes **unfruitful**.

Mark 4:19

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Mark 4:19

“Therefore **bear fruit in keeping with repentance**; 9 and do not suppose that you can say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham for our father’; for I say to you that from these stones God is able to raise up children to Abraham. 10 “The axe is already laid at the root of the trees; **therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.**

Matthew 3:8–10

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The things we don't focus on because of pressing cares of the world or other desires WILL change our fruit. What are your thoughts in light of these two passages of Scripture?

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 - 1. You can't see.**
 - a. Being short-sighted leaves you unable to perceive and therefore discern correctly.**
 - b. Being short-sighted leaves you doing the wrong things.**

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At the same time they also learn to be idle, as they go around from house to house; and not merely idle, but also gossips and busybodies, talking about things not proper to mention.

1 Timothy 5:13

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How does this happen?

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“But I tell you that every careless word that people speak, they shall give an accounting for it in the day of judgment.

Matthew 12:36

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If you are unable to perceive and therefore discern correctly and you end up doing the wrong things, what will characterize your spiritual life and what is the appropriate spiritual response?

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

Titus 3:14

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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?

- Rom 4:18-20 – lifting up the promises of God
- By periodic spiritual check-ups that looks for which of these is missing because healthy growth will have these flowing from + building on each other
- Look for evidence that the change/work done is result of look beyond ourselves and immediate results (faithful and joyful service)
- First direction we head when trying to grow in these shows source i.e.) prayer – dependence – shows where help comes from and who we are seeking to please
- Looking to grow in humility – are you praying for this
- Proverbs 2:4 fervor, zeal, work—that life FILLED w this characteristic in looking for God's kingdom purposes throughout our day—preparation in this vein

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