

# THE LIFE OF RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD PT. 11

II Peter 1:5-11

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## I. Lived Wholeheartedly v. 5a

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## II PETER 1:5-11

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

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### II PETER 1:5-11

**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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## II PETER 1:5-11

### 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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- I. Lived Wholeheartedly v. 5a
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- III. Lived with God's Goals for Growth, Not Yours vv. 8-9
  - A. Positive Incentive for Effort Toward These Goals v. 8

**Moral Excellence, Knowledge, Self-Control, Perseverance,  
Godliness, Brotherly Kindness, Love**

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## II PETER 1:5-11

**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?**

- Because relationships make them even more impossible
- Makes it easy to look at ourselves & our performance instead of gaze of faith in Christ & His provisions
- We notice failures in ourselves/others making it easy to feel inadequate—too much drama/shame so retreat/work to put all this talk behind the scenes for immediate “peace” and “dignity”
- Gets lost in our understandings of how law & grace work together
- Presence/absence of them when lived in front of/with others shows what is REAL about our faith or about our TRUE object of faith
- It becomes VERY 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
- Encouragement that can have while we don't have
- There is a picture of journey/process in which we still impact for Christ while He is working
- Instead of our eyes wandering for hope in face of failure, find hope that God wants to work these things in my life & ask Him to do His desire

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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
- Tired of sin dominating picture
- For those who don't want to waste life
- Someone who cares about God's purposes for us
- Those who want more than bragging rights or respect from their great knowledge
- Those who are tired/want to finish/short-sighted
- Someone free from looking to themselves for perfection or for standard for results

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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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    - 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?**

- Sin of ignorance – failing to see God's place in His holiness in relation to our place – we are content in our pride
- Accept God's Word for our own glory
- Miss out on relationship with God
- Blind when don't see + savor Christ + all His provision for us
- Focused on procuring our own blessings rather than blessings He gives
- Blind when we don't look for God's best

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

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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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“Therefore bear fruit in keeping with repentance; 9 and do not suppose that you can say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham for our father’; Matthew 3:8-9a  
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

**The things we don't focus on because of pressing cares of the world or other desires WILL change our fruit. Thoughts in view of these Scriptures?**

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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, what will characterize your spiritual life and subsequent actions 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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**Our people must also learn to engage in good deeds to meet pressing needs, so that they will not be unfruitful.**

**Titus 3:14**

**Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted.**

**Galatians 6:1**

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While trusting Christ for justification and the work of sanctifying us frees us from final wrath/judgment, our fellowship with God is still broken when we live with known sin. **But we must also remember that God's name is dishonored when we live with unknown sin.** How should we respond in view of this?

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**“Too many Christians are content simply with being Christians, happy simply to know they won’t go to hell. But the true Christian never rests content with such a minimal (albeit important!) level of Christian experience.”**

***Douglas Moo***

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**What will we need to remember to make it easier for ourselves and those with whom we co-labor in the gospel to bring our sins and lack of right purpose to the surface so we can grow in these areas and be useful/fruitful?**



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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 with this characteristic in looking for God’s kingdom purposes throughout our day—preparation in this vein

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