

The LIFE of Relationship with God Pt. 14

II Peter 1:8-9 Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, May 17, 2023 Beneath the Cross (Getty) v. 2, 3

Now for this very reason also, what reason? God has given the power to live godly lives, (seeing His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness through the true knowledge . . .) **I. The Life of Relationship with God is Lived Wholeheartedly v. 5** applying all diligence, In your faith, supply the faith of v. 1 that sees God who relates with us as described in vv. 2-4 leads to using ALL diligence, energy, holy sweat focused on things that accompany saving faith, **II. Lived Specifically at Character Level vv. 5-7** easy to forget these things/lost in everyday life, so must remember **III. Lived with God's Goals for Growth, Not Yours vv. 8-9 A. Positive Incentive for Effort Toward These Goals v. 8** For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful; verse focusing on productive life; where? in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. THIS sphere only one that matters; society may deem you useful/fruitful, but GOD may say useless/unfruitful; **NOT focus on virtues without focusing on relationship with Christ that produces growth in THESE virtues**—true knowledge—not talking about empty facts, but life lived as direct result of right belief about Christ; THIS is the hope of verse 8—look to Christ and LEARN of Him—respond to that knowledge; life of abiding Jn. 15:1-11 abide/bear fruit—if looking to Christ, it WILL include growth in these virtues—WILL be on display as you interact with others (I Pet. 2:12, Tit. 3:14, etc.), Peter assumes these HAVE these qualities b/c have genuine faith—calling them to put focus here as antidote to false teachers proving that you truly looking at Christ b/c THIS is what growth looks like; not perfectly, but will respond to sin as Christian and lift up Christ's righteousness and payment and then submit to His lordship. **Does YOUR life show you are living with faith in TRUE God b/c THESE are your focus?** Wiersbe quote—change view of success **B. Negative Results for Failure to Pursue These Goals v. 9** For he who lacks these qualities is blind or short-sighted, having forgotten his purification from his former sins. **1. You can't see to LIVE** Blind—followed by 2 participles--short-sighted, **a. Being short-sighted leaves you unable to perceive and therefore discern correctly.** Mk. 4:19, Matt. 3:8-10; Short-sighted see only earthly things nearby but unable to see heavenly things far away Kistemaker **What do you notice about yourself, others, life? What does God care about in these things that you NOT noticing?** **b. Being short-sighted leaves you doing the wrong things** **I Tim. 5:13** I Tim. 5:9-15 **how does this happen?** life NOT filled w actions described—not merely looking for actions w/o right motivation, but no actions like this and no biblical faith looking to God (required? true knowledge—love for God, obedience IN/from relationship); **abiding with God, feeding on Him, submitting desires/priorities to Him, therefore no profitable use of information about someone**—God determines what is useless, same word from v. 8 in **Matt. 12:36** (careless—useless b/c didn't effect change in godly way) Dangerous—most spreading don't "mean to" harm; people caught w cares of world—same values as world, therefore think doing right thing w info, but lack of heavenly perspective keeps them from seeing unfruitful—DOING WRONG THINGS--**If you are unable to perceive and therefore discern correctly, what will characterize your spiritual life and subsequent actions?** life of vice **Jude 12**, spiritual blind—walks in darkness (when don't love brother), **I Jn. 2:11** opposite of life filled w good deeds **Tit. 3:14**, including **Gal. 6:1**; so afraid of doing wrong that see sins of commission as worse than sins of omission; see sins when "didn't mean it" as different as those who "mean it"; YES, but NO! sin separates us from God which shows by deeds governed by other desires than His! **look at your life; do your deeds show you look for ultimate spiritual value, not your/their values?** 2nd participle following blind **having forgotten his purification from his former sins.**

2. You can't see to BE

Imagine the scenario presented—what would be result of forgetting purification from former sins? Not Living in light of the gospel; what is hope of gospel? That you can be forgiven—that all against you taken away, that you repent/turn from independence from God & submit to His Lordship, God's awakening you to these needs & sealing His work in your heart w indwelling of Holy Spirit, all this symbolized by baptism & our act of obedience in displaying this work **Eph. 5:26, Col. 2:11-13** led to new standing w God—new community of cleansed ones with new way to live; **Schreiner** no need to divorce forgiveness and baptism (ie. Moo) b/c early church, virtually all converted believers were baptized immediately—water of baptism would remind them of cleansing through Jesus' death and resurrection—rooted in cultic language of OT **Lev. 16:30, Ps. 51:2**; Forgetting means work of Christ not present focus—not living as forgiven sinners, Schreiner, **therefore Living by faith in something else** if these virtues aren't showing/increasing, whether saved or not, you are spiritually blind, acting like unconverted; **if saved, eyes were opened to truth of gospel, now shutting down, can't even see problem as live for what DO see/desire (ie. church of Laodicea—lukewarm, remember why? Rev. 3:17** wrong source for evaluating value, therefore not God's values, therefore won't obey God, won't spread gospel if don't value, won't live in light of blood of Jesus cleansing from sin; **How do you handle sin?** What is right/wrong, what does justice look like? Forgiveness? Much of forgiveness issues (can't forgive, don't know how to live it, etc.) show that don't understand gospel—either study Christ Eph. 4:32 OR study self/others/culture to know how to respond; **if not studying God to depths of sin's destruction, then any reminder of sins by self or others would identify you by them** (perhaps take pride in them as justify your reasons for them, OR that you didn't do them like others OR drown under shame/guilt/hopelessness—run from anyone holding you to them (because impossible to get out from under, so can't live w people watching you as you live to prove to yourself/others that you aren't that person; OR shows by you running away from all who have done wrong w/o giving way back); focus on your efforts and other's responses to you to justify yourself instead of Christ's work to justify you OR hopelessness b/c decide your own fate regardless of other's words/actions toward you; When not work of faith (obedience of faith) which leads to growth of these qualities Williams says, "**When the heart has lost interest in the invisible, memory is brittle relative to things spiritual. It will fail to do its office respecting even the work which has been done, or is believed to have been done, on the very mind of which memory is itself one of the faculties.**" in Hiebert p. 58 focus is on false who profess faith but live in open sin, claim to have been forgiven, but no life change; **SO EASY** to slip into attitude of French skeptic Voltaire, "God will forgive; that's his job." Moo, p. 56 Moo, "**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.” Calvin v. 9 THIS is beginning of Christianity—it follows that those who do not strive for pure and holy life do not understand even the first rudiments of faith NO, if rolling in filth of flesh, then missing that blood was not pardon only but acknowledge God has separated us from the world to himself—though we daily sin, sin ought not to rule in us, **but sanctification of Spirit prevails when see to BE--new identity/focus/values—true knowledge of Jesus Christ**; I Cor. 6:9-11, see also Rom. 6:1-14; Let’s take this out for a spin; **how does this live?** **While trusting Christ for justification and His 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.** Therefore, instead of focusing on whether we meant to sin or didn’t understand or that those talking to us don’t know/love us, **how SHOULD fighting spiritual blindness cause us to respond to the reality of sin being displayed through our lives—both recognized and unrecognized by us?**

Leviticus 16:30 for it is on this day that atonement shall be made for you to cleanse you; you will be clean from all your sins before the LORD.

Psalms 51:2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity And cleanse me from my sin.

Matthew 3:8-10 “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 12:36 “But I tell you that every careless word that people speak, they shall give an accounting for it in the day of judgment.

Mark 4:19 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.

Galatians 6:1 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.

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;

Ephesians 5:26 so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,

Colossians 2:1-3 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 2:11-13 and in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ;¹² having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.¹³ When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions,

1 Timothy 5:13 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*.

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

Hebrews 1:3 And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

Revelation 3:17 ‘Because you say, “I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing,” and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked,