

THE LIFE OF RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD PT. 12

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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II PETER 1:5-11

- 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
 - 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

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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II PETER 1:5-11

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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“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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 - A. Positive Incentive for Effort Toward These Goals v. 8**
 - B. Negative Results for Failure to Pursue These Goals v. 9**
 - 1. You can't see.**

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II PETER 1:5-11

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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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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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

“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 a perceived strong identity or because of pressing cares of the world and other desires WILL change our fruit. Thoughts in view of these Scriptures?

- Must cultivate spiritual values/relationship w/ God
- Must be careful about justifying ourselves to the neglect of fostering repentance
- Warning against auto-pilot Christianity
- Live in light of the starting point
- Make sure convictions & repentance are results of continued gaze at Christ
- Desire to know God's holiness-study-result, my sin looms large- repent & desire not to sin
- Watch low standard (yours, mine, or theirs)
- Prone to sin
- Diligent in using what we have to serve God
- Looking at Christ not only keeps us cutting out sins, but also to do right

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“The most unquestionable duties had need to be pressed upon Christians by many arguments: for what we do most easily assent to in judgment we are oftentimes most careless of in practice.”

Alexander Nisbet

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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?

- Outside boundaries of normal Christian living
- Lack of Biblical discipleship
- Forgot most important commitment
- Not seeing relationship with Christ as ultimate goal
- Therefore minor sins lead to larger sins
- If not pursuing what God has will be building something else

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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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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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 - 2. You can't remember.**

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Imagine the scenario presented in II Peter. What would be the result of forgetting purification from former sins?

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NOT LIVING IN LIGHT OF THE GOSPEL

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so that He might sanctify her, **having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,**

Ephesians 5:26

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,

Colossians 2:11-13

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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.

Leviticus 16:30

Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity And cleanse me from my sin.

Psalms 51:2

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‘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,

Revelation 3:17

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“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.”

Nathaniel Williams

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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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II PETER 1:5-11

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.**

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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.** How should those fighting spiritual short-sightedness respond to the reality of sin displayed through our lives?

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II PETER 1:5-11

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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Colossians 2:1-3

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, **Hebrews 1:3**

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What should we 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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