

THE LIFE OF RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD PT. 14

II Peter 1:5-11

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II PETER 1:5-11

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

- 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

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

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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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

“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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 - B. Negative Results for Failure to Pursue These Goals v. 9**
 - 1. You can't see to LIVE.**

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II PETER 1:5-11

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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**What do you notice about yourself, others, and life in general?
What does God care about in these things you are NOT noticing?**

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 - a. Being short-sighted leaves you unable to perceive and therefore discern correctly.**
 - What do you notice about yourself, others, and life in general? What does God care about in these things you are NOT noticing?**
 - 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?

- Living outside boundaries of normal Christian living
- Forgot most important commitment and that relationship with Christ is the ultimate priority
- If not pursuing what God has will be building something else, therefore minor sins lead to larger sins
- Lack of Biblical discipleship—not tied together with those tied under Christ
- Choices – strengthening something/weakening something else
- Lack of clear biblical mission
- Audience that hasn't valued the process of biblical discipleship
- Concerned about things world values – info, quick judgements, sensitivity...
- Desires/dedication, pledge – encompass whole life – therefore, if not growing with God's standard of growing, then wrongfully focused
- Intentions aren't enough – either building one side or the other

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II PETER 1:5-11

What would be required to live doing the right actions found in I Timothy 5:9-16?

- Must value knowing Christ and doing what He is doing – living relationship
- Apply what He is like to our situations (Phil. 2:1ff)
- Hebrews 12:1-4
- Position under Christ
- Content with lot in life
- They have been trained, disciple, transformed by Christ among the people of God
- Gifts are not focused – rather love for Christ
- A higher calling – an eternal perspective
- Everything we do is modeling a way of living – what are we saying about Christ and His body

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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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II PETER 1:5-11

If you are unable to perceive and therefore discern correctly, what will characterize your spiritual life and subsequent actions?

- Unproductive and cause harm
- Right or wrong motives, wrong actions
- Whatever – sometimes good, sometimes not
- Lack of evidence of yielding to the Spirit – perhaps no Spirit
- Not Christ or gospel

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

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II PETER 1:5-11

Starting from the scenario presented in II Peter, what would be the result of forgetting purification from former sins?

- Like a dog returning to their vomit, can't see where we've muddied the water (we see victory & live, God sees loss & death)
- No history of the words and works of God, therefore no sense of how unrooted or misguided we might be
- Christ's righteous given becomes standard of righteous
- Lose mediator between God & man -we set our own way of maintaining righteousness
- Looking for help, hope, or purpose outside the gospel
- Useless, unfruitful even while very busy "doing it"
- Lack of confidence & assurance before God & in life
- Forget position as heir & start to doubt His word & will - leaves unstable instead of the freedom and hope of living life pleasing to God or trusting His word
- Lose our roadmap & identity
- Rewrite path for fellowship and life

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NOT LIVING IN LIGHT OF THE GOSPEL

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II PETER 1:5-11

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.

Psalm 51:2

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LIVING BY FAITH IN SOMETHING ELSE

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II PETER 1:5-11

‘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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LIVING BY FAITH IN SOMETHING ELSE

i.e. How do YOU handle sin?

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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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- 1. Desire to have sin exposed so God is glorified through us.**
- 2. Seek a deeper understanding of the implications of the gospel.**

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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 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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- 1. Desire to have sin exposed so God is glorified through us.**
- 2. Seek a deeper understanding of the implications of the gospel.**
- 3. Submit to the slow growth of grace.**

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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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