

The LIFE of Relationship with God Pt. 16

II Peter 1:10-11 Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, May 31, 2023 Trust & Obey 349

Now for this very reason also, what reason? God has given power to live godly lives, (seeing His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness) **I. The Life of Relationship with God is Lived Wholeheartedly v. 5 applying all diligence. II. Lived Specifically at Character Level vv. 5-7** In your faith, supply 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; WORK HERE, you WILL be useful/fruitful/productive, **where** one sphere that matters, in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. **NO focus on virtues w/o focus on relationship with Christ that produces growth in THESE virtues; B. Negative Results for Failure to Pursue These Goals v. 9 1. You can't see to LIVE** ⁹ For he who lacks these *qualities* is blind or short-sighted, **a. Being short-sighted leaves you unable to perceive and therefore discern correctly.** see only earthly things nearby but unable to see heavenly things far away Kistemaker **b. Being short-sighted leaves you doing the wrong things** supposed to have life filled w good deeds **Tit. 3:14**, including **Gal. 6:1**, vice results from not seeing clearly, (Jude, II Pet. 2, I Jn. 2:11) **I Tim. 5:13** I Tim. 5:9-15 life NOT filled w actions described—gossip b/c value what world values, not building what God wants built in others; **2. You can't see to BE** *having forgotten his purification from his former sins.* **what would be result of forgetting purification from former sins? Not Living in light of the gospel;** hope of gospel? you can be forgiven—all against you taken away, you repent/turn from independence from God & submit to His Lordship; Forgetting means work of Christ not present focus—not living as forgiven sinners, Schreiner, for His will, building His kingdom, **therefore Living by faith in something else** (ie. 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—always defending/proving yourself; **How do you handle sin?** if not studying God and His gospel to depths of sin's destruction, then reminders of sin's presence and devastation will overshadowing the power and purposes of God over those sins; focus in Peter is on false who profess faith but live in open sin, claim to have been forgiven, but no life change; **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 . . . sanctification of Spirit prevails when see to BE; 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?** **1. Desire to have sin exposed so God glorified through us** SHOW me my sin (not defend, explain; others may be judgmental, or only focus on surface w/o knowing how to get to roots, **but your HEART should value when God allows all not godly to come to surface—hallowed be Thy name; 2. Seek a deeper understanding of implications of gospel**—true understanding of gospel gives freedom to look at every instance of sin exposed and have hope b/c same gospel that paid your penalty/took wrath, gave provision to fight sin/lift up Christ as your source of righteousness/standing b/r God; **repentance is good thing! Speaks of spiritual sight AND freedom to move toward Christ BY yielding to Spirit of God. 3. Submit to the slow growth of grace;** short-sighted when demand quick change; why these qualities valued? because work of Christ changes at character level—changes desires, perspective, eternal—impatience focuses on me/now—life in Christ focuses on Him eternally—we've got time (ie. II Pet. 3:9 The Lord is NOT slow); continued look to Christ leads to **increasing lifelong process**, Nisbet, it is in the living of inspecting, seeking, living these characteristics that life of Christian will be busy and “bearing the fruits of cheerful obedience to Christ's commands” p. 229; **IV. Lived with His Calling in View vv. 10-11** ¹⁰ Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; **a. Maintenance in line with God's calling protects from eternal devastation. v. 10** **diligent** (related to word in v. 5), **all the more** implies you ARE moving, effort, pursuit of something one cares about, attentive benevolence “as thoughtful as it is efficient.” Spicq TLNT inside Green, p. 200 to **make certain** what is firm/solid, validating a will—way to fight blindness of v. 9 is to focus on your relation to His calling and choosing you—is it on solid ground? focus not so much on more strenuous activity to prove saved, but on place of focus for assurance that leads to strenuous activity; **what does calling/choosing imply? Where does it lead you to focus?** Puts focus on Him—He initiates both effectual calling and election **II Thess. 2:13-14;** don't try to understand election which took place before time Eph. 1:4 without focusing on response to gospel proclaimed inside time (idea in Hiebert, p. 59), v. 3 calling already mentioned; **focus on content and character of One backing it;** Plain English—v. 10 says, before act/carry out calling, look at One who called; THAT'S focus b/c THAT is where certainty lies (firm, solid); God's election the basis for the divine call; “**In** the Greek-speaking world, the election or selection of military and political leaders was based on the merit and character of those chosen. But God's love is the root cause of his election, regardless of the character, accomplishments, merits, or virtue of the one called (Rom. 5:7-8; II Tim. 1:9).” Green, p. 201 **but focus not merely on One who called, but on our responsibility resulting from that calling;** CALLED to be holy **Eph. 1:4, Col. 1:22** Calvin, this is proof [certainty] not taken from the cause, but from the sign or the effect – He called/elected secret counsel before foundation of world—**but** as He called us to the end that we may be pure and spotless in his presence, then “purity of life is not improperly called the evidence and proof of election, by which the faithful may not only testify to others that they are the children of God, but also confirm themselves in this confidence, in such a manner, however, that they fix their solid foundation on something else.” Calvin, p. 377—when get calling right, MUST look to Him b/c not in you to become holy—“Obedience is not optional in any consideration of Christian safety.” Hiebert, p. 60 Focusing on purpose for calling and your inability to fulfill on own frees you from looking to self or own performance and reminds you that HE initiated calling and choosing; He holy AND only means for you to BE holy in practice as well as position; look at Him as provider, trainer, from position of security of being called (He wants you)--**this work to maintain what God has said is your identity & purpose gives firm foundation/assurance as you continue growing in these character qualities IN places He has placed you as you seek to build what He builds the WAY He wants you to** (family AND church family—are NOT in competition (neither is job)—must WILLINGLY do all from wherever you are); **LIVE**

them, don't just HAVE these character qualities; same focus in Col. 3:12ff. What would this focus do for your everyday living? means inability to show godly character should cause us to look for identity issues which forces you back to final word, One identifying; NEED confidence w all else unstable/uncertain—comes from One who is certain and His word; there is assurance/confidence when not proving to Him, but living His calling—trust/obey gives assurance; from solid foundation under feet, then can (all the more diligent) dig in to build kingdom everyday from where you are! THIS is NORMAL, everyday, Christian living—life I live in flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God who LOVED ME and gave Himself for me; THEREFORE, verse ends,

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 1:4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love

Colossians 1:22 yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach—

2 Thessalonians 2:13–14 But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth. ¹⁴ It was for this He called you through our gospel, that you may gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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.

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,