THE LIFE OF RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD PT. 19

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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- **B.** Negative Results for Failure to Pursue These Goals v. 9
 - 1. You can't see to LIVE.
 - 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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NOT LIVING IN LIGHT OF THE GOSPEL

LIVING BY FAITH IN SOMETHING ELSE

I.e. How do YOU handle sin?

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If you are not studying God and His gospel to the depths of sin's destruction, then reminders of sin's presence and devastation will overshadow the power and purposes of God over those sins.

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?

- 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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 - B. Hope accompanying God's calling is personal and includes more ahead. v. 11

"I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; 21 that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me. 25 "O righteous Father, although the world has not known You, yet I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me; 26 and I have made Your name known to them, and will make it known, so that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them."

John 17:20-21, 25-26

but just as it is written, "THINGS WHICH EYE HAS NOT SEEN AND EAR HAS NOT HEARD, AND which HAVE NOT ENTERED THE HEART OF MAN, ALL THAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM." 1 Corinthians 2:9

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 - B. Our confidence lies with a hope that is personal and always lies ahead. v. 11
 - 1. Your hope is based on God's promised riches given to you.

For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him; Romans 10:12

In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace Ephesians 1:7

Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy.

1 Timothy 6:17

whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior,

Titus 3:6

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 - 1. Your hope is based on God's promised riches given to you.
 - 2. Your hope lies ahead. Therefore, faith looks forward.

What fights against our hope lying ahead and faith looking forward?

- Problems NOW obscure hope
- Past habits, friendships either good or bad
- Moses/Joshua warned about complacency because content with what have
- Desire to have resolution now at all costs
- Future shrinking and past growing because no eternal perspective
- Our own inability to persevere without remembering the power of the One calling
- Live by what we see or control not examining the validity of our hope
- Make God's character like ours OR detach His good character from our lives
- Our hopes are here not there
- Constant battle to keep this perspective, not a secret key or final level where don't have to battle
- Treasures here (even good character qualities over Jesus Himself)
- Don't have faith in God's power to transform us
- Can't even define hope biblically

"Hypocrites have in them nothing real or solid, and that, on the contrary, they who prove their calling sure by good works, are free from the danger of falling, because sure and sufficient is the grace of God by which they are supported. Thus the certainty of our salvation by no means depends on us, as doubtless the cause of it is beyond our limits."

John Calvin

Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord or of me His prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God, 9 who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity, 10 but now has been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, 11 for which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle and a teacher. 12 For this reason I also suffer these things, but I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day.

2 Timothy 1:8-12

through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for His name's sake,

Romans 1:5

Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret for long ages past, 26 but now is manifested, and by the Scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the eternal God, has been made known to all the nations, leading to obedience of faith; 27 to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be the glory forever. Amen.

Romans 16:25-27

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For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, Colossians 1:13

How does the idea of "the obedience of faith" challenge our street level view of faith and head us in the direction of II Peter 1:10-11?

- Calls to obedience and dependence for all that would overwhelm and keep from following
- Gets past "God initiate & called" and "all we have to do is trust" in order to find eternal hope
- Heb. 11 individuals showed actions that evidenced their faith vs. us not always conscience that moment by moment choices are to be made by identify under Christ
- Obedience of faith leads to knowing/valuing His words which lead us to look to Him for what eternally promised
- Elisha's mantle what is ours because of crucified & risen Christ frees us to obey God instead of slave to sin
- Changes how we handle other people, other identities & values, other obstructions to life because of His promises to us in Christ
- Free to act for others benefit & Christ's honor

envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Galatians 5:21

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Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, 10 nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

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"Christ's call is so powerful that we are promised that we will obtain glory and moral virtue."

"objective obedience is the foundation for subjective assurance"

Tom Schreiner

For God is not unjust so as to forget your work and the love which you have shown toward His name, in having ministered and in still ministering to the saints.

Hebrews 6:10

For God is not unjust so as to forget your work and the love which you have shown toward His name, in having ministered and in still ministering to the saints.

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For we know that if the earthly tent which is our house is torn down, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

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2 Corinthians 5:1

"But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. 32 "All the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the sheepherd separates the sheep from the goats; 33 and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left. 34 "Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. Matthew 25:31–34

New American Standard Bible: 1995 update. 1995. LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation.

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"Eternity will not be endless sequence as much as it will be the presence of the One in whom time ceases to have significance."

Robert Mounce

"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. 22 "Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' 23 "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.' 24 "Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 "And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock. 26 "Everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not act on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. 27 "The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell—and great was its fall." Matthew 7:21-27

New American Standard Bible: 1995 update. 1995. LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation.

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 <u>and</u> 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

STIR UP THE GOSPEL

II Peter 1:12-15

I. What you have been given is precious and is under attack. v. 12

I. What you have been given is precious and is under attack. v. 12

A. The gospel is sufficient. Stay focused there.

Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, 2 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. 3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,

1 Corinthians 15:1-4

Why do we need to be reminded if we already know it? What causes facts you believe to fade?

- Because intellectual knowledge is not enough to keep us from being entangled in depths of sin
- If no spiritual high beams, then other answers/values will fill the gospel void
- Maybe believing that facts are less important than our feelings
- As we repeat the "facts," we add our own variation
- As different "teachers" come into our lives, if not rooted properly, swayed somewhere else
- Fixated on learning new thing & lose why & center
- Nature to be forgetful, God gave stones of remembrance, Red Sea, miracles still forget greatness of God
- People change when they take hold of biblical responsibility & do it think of all reasons we find to skirt our responsibilities

"From the start, our unity has always been based on a common mission, not a common confession. For the first 80 years of the SBC, we did not even have a confession because the founders were adamantly opposed to having one!" The serious fidelity called for to a confessional article on the nature of Christian ministry, Pastor Warren contends is the "death of the basis for cooperation upon which this body was founded." Again he asserts, "That basis - a common mission, not a confession - was the founding genius that made the SBC great." Forceful verbiage but quite wide of historical truth and the biblical standard of true Christianity. Warren's open letter invites Southern Baptists to a missiological souffle.

Tom Nettles Rick Warren's Four Fallacies of Faithless Fraternity.

What happens if we focus on faith apart from "the faith?"