

Seeking My King & His Kingdom

Lesson #46 If I Truly Believe...How Then Shall I Live?

How Should Christ's Return Affect Me?

II Pet. 3:10-18 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. ¹¹ Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, What Manner Of Persons Ought You To Be in Holy Conduct and Godliness, ¹² looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat?

¹³ Nevertheless we, According To His Promise, LOOK FOR New Heavens And A New Earth in which righteousness dwells. ¹⁴ THEREFORE, beloved, looking forward to these things, BE DILIGENT To Be Found By Him In Peace, Without Spot And Blameless; ¹⁵ and consider that the longsuffering of our Lord *is* salvation—as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, ¹⁶ as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures.

¹⁷ You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, Beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked;

¹⁸ but Grow In The Grace and Knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.

Consider: Knowledge without grace is a terrible weapon. Grace without knowledge is shallow.

Ps. 84:11 For the LORD God is a sun and shield: The LORD Will Give Grace And Glory:

no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.

Consider: When I obey Him, He will not hold anything back that will help me continue to grow and live for Him. His living presence in our lives causes us to grow in strength, grace and glory.

When I was a young girl, people would ask me my age. ...Most Christians want to grow in the Lord, especially when they are new in the faith. But often, as time goes on, the enthusiasm to grow begins to fade. We settle into a humdrum routine and grow spiritually complacent. Are you stuck spiritually? Until you're perfectly like Jesus Christ, which will not happen in this life, you still have room to grow.

Peter gives the antidote for stagnancy and shortsightedness in our Christian growth.

II Pet. 1:1-4 Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Savior Jesus Christ:

² Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the Knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,

- Knowledge = 13x = Not just a mere intellectual understanding of a truth
- Knowledge = living participation in the truth

John 17:3 And this is life eternal, that they might Know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

³ According as His Divine Power hath given unto us All Things [Col. 2:10 you are complete in Him.] that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him that hath Called Us To Glory And Virtue:

- Just as a baby has a definite genetic structure that determines how he will grow, the believer is "genetically structured" to experience "glory and virtue."
- We are called to "His eternal glory." [I Pet. 5:10]
- We are called to Virtue. I Pet. 2:9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that you should show forth the praises [virtues, excellencies] of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

⁴ Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that By These ye might be Partakers Of The Divine Nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

Rom. 5:1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have Peace With God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

Phil. 4:7 And The Peace Of God, which passes all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

- His Grace & peace are multiplied to us as we walk with Him, know Him intimately and trust His promises.

1. Nature determines appetite. [II Pet. 2:22 - dogs and pigs]

2. Nature determines behavior. [eagles; dolphins]

3. Nature determines environment. [squirrels; moles; trout]

4. Nature determines association. [lions; sheep; fish]

Since I have God's nature within me, I should have an appetite for that which is pure and holy.

Truth: Godly living is the result of cultivating the new nature within me. [II Cor. 6:14-18]

II Pet. 1:5a AND BESIDE THIS, Giving All Diligence,

Faith In A Future Glory should motivate me to "Be Diligent" NOW!

Diligence is primarily an attitude which leads to an action. Diligence means to do something with intense effort and motivation, and is in opposition to the attitude of slothfulness.

Spurgeon exhorts us to all diligence..."Giving diligence," yes, but more than that, "giving all diligence,"---It is not man's effort that saves him; but, on the other hand, grace saves no man to make him like a log of wood or a block of stone; Grace Makes Man Active.

Joseph Stowell: "When we begin to BELIEVE the reality of our future on the other side, we start behaving differently on this side."

Key Principles of Christian Life: God's Command

II Pet. 1:5-7 But also for this very reason, Giving All Diligence, ADD to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love.

- Spiritual growth is not automatic. It is a Divine Requirement for every believer.
- Word of God is the divine provision for spiritual growth.
- It is conditional - ADD to your faith. Faith is the prerequisite for this command.
- ADD = to supply generously
 - ❖ It is not enough for me to "let go and let God."
 - ❖ These qualities grow out of life and a vital relationship with Jesus Christ.

1. Quality of Virtue: Excellence - To the Greeks, it meant "the fulfillment of a thing."

When anything in nature fulfills its purpose, that is "virtue" = moral excellence.

Consider: A Christian is supposed to glorify God because He has God's nature within.

When he glorifies God, he shows "excellence" because he is fulfilling God's purpose.

Consider: True virtue is not "polishing" human qualities, no matter how fine they may be.

True virtue is the Holy Spirit producing divine qualities that make me more like Jesus Christ.

Examine: Do I choose to think, read, be entertained by, and look on things that are virtuous and excellent?

- Is my character [speech, action, choices] morally excellent?
- Do I have a heart and appetite for things that are excellent, good and pure?
- Do I have an energetic, vigorous faith? Is it active, alive and growing?
- Am I fulfilling my intended, created purpose?
- What does my life reflect to others about the nature and character of God?

2. Knowledge = [gnosis] knowledge that is growing; result of divine enlightenment

Col. 2:3 In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

Examine: Am I growing in my knowledge of God's Word and His ways?

Am I growing in my knowledge of God through an intimate relationship with Him?

What am I doing to nurture my relationship with Him and to get to know Him better?

Am I spending consistent time seeking to know Him through the study of His Word and prayer?

What things am I most motivated and interested to learn about?

Am I able to take the Word and apply it to my life circumstances and to use it to minister to the needs of others?

3 Temperance or self-control; the virtue of one who masters his desires and passions; handling the pleasures of life

Is there any area where I frequently and habitually give in to sinful or fleshly desires, drives, or passions?

4. Patience = reflects steadfastness, constancy, endurance, perseverance
ability to endure when circumstances are difficult

Examine: Does my faith hold up? Do I endure under pressure and testing?

Do I keep trusting, loving, and obeying God even when His providence and choices are not what I would choose?

When hard times come, do I throw in the towel and give in to discouragement, fear, or resentment?

Am I enduring current trials or testing steadfastly, or have I grown weary and fainthearted?

I Cor. 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

Do I respond to my trials with joy?

James 1:2-4 My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;

³ Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.

⁴ But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

5. Godliness = a particular manner of life characterized by reverence toward God and a respect for the teachings of His Word

Note: In the judgment, our godliness and conduct is all that is left.

II Pet. 3:11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,

Is my life God-centered? Is what I think about, dwell on, and seek after God-centered?

Is the primary orientation of my life God-ward and heavenward?

Or is it self-centered and earthly (earthbound)? Is it temporal or eternal?

C.S. Lewis "It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the future world that they have become so ineffective in this world."

6. Brotherly Kindness = suggests love for fellow believers

7. Love = agape = sacrificial love = we love in spite of differences

Is my life characterized by selfless, sacrificial, serving love?

Do I seek the Kingdom of God and the interests of others above my own? Do I love the lost?

II Pet. 1:8-9 For If These Things Be In You, And Abound, [apprehended these in my life; surrender and allow the Holy Spirit to appropriate these in your life] They Make You that you shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- Spiritual Stability & Spiritual Fruitfulness [John 15:8]

But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.

- Spiritual Blindness & Spiritual Amnesia

If I choose to be lukewarm concerning my walk, I will be:

Incomplete: Justified but not sanctified- Ex.: A Christian who lacks virtue, brotherly love, etc.

Ineffective if I don't develop a determination and diligence to walk with the Lord.

Insincere: I need to remember what I was and where I was headed.

II Pet. 1:10 Wherefore the rather, brethren, GIVE DILIGENCE to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:

Consider: It is not our profession of faith that guarantees we are saved; it is our progression in the faith that gives us that assurance. The person who claims to be a child of God but whose character and conduct give no evidence of spiritual growth is deceiving himself.

1. Choosing To Surrender And Be Obedient Is A Choice.

Joshua 24:15 And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

2. It Requires A Commitment. You cannot be double-minded.

I Kings 18:21 And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him.

James 1:5-7 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. ⁶ But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering.

For he that wavers is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.

⁷ For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.

Consider: My doubts do not limit God's ability to provide; my doubts limit my ability to receive His provision for me.

Acts 11:23 Who, when he came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that with Purpose Of Heart they would cleave unto the Lord.

3. It is a Continued Pursuit. There are NO shortcuts. It requires great effort and patience.

I Cor. 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

Col. 1:21-23 And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled ²² In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreprieveable in his sight:

²³ If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven;

II Pet. 1:11 For so an entrance shall be Ministered unto you ABUNDANTLY into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Consider: Every believer will arrive in heaven, but some will have a more glorious entrance.

Alas, some "shall be saved, yet so as by fire." [I Cor. 3:15]

The future is calling us to holiness in our lives NOW.

Note: The word MINISTERED in verse 11 is the same as the word ADD in verse 5. It is the translation of a Greek word that means "to bear the expenses of a chorus." When Greek theatrical groups presented their dramas, somebody had to underwrite the expenses.

The word came to mean "make lavish provision."

Consider: If I make lavish provision to grow spiritually, God will make lavish provision for me when I enter heaven! WOW!