

20:20 Vision Ministries—Devotions by Roger Browning Week 24 (June 9-15, 2019)

The apostle Peter has much to say about living the Christian life, perhaps because he knows firsthand what it feels like to deny the Lord (see Matthew 26:69-75). We will look at his teachings on the subject of **sanctification** in this week's devotions.

Sunday, June 9 (read 2 Peter 1:1-4)

His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and goodness. (2 Peter 1:3)

Each of us should desire to live for the glory of Jesus, because He has given us salvation through His own righteousness (v. 1). We have received that precious gift by the knowledge of the One who gives us grace and peace (v. 2). In addition to the gift of salvation, He has also “given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and goodness” (v. 3). As we trust in and claim the wonderful promises of God, we will “escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires” and “participate in the divine nature” of our Lord Jesus Christ (meaning we will be more Christlike). In tomorrow's devotion, Peter will tell you how this step-by-step process works.

Monday, June 10 (read 2 Peter 1:5-11)

For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; (2 Peter 1:5a)

Faith is the origin of all salvation experiences. God extends His **mercy** and **grace**, and we receive His pardon through our faith in His promises (see Ephesians 2:8-10). Hebrews 11:1a defines faith as follows: “Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.” While acceptance of His generous offer of pardon brings salvation, the process leading to **sanctification** takes much longer. It is often one major sin that motivates a person to come forward and publicly ask Jesus to forgive his/her sins and cleanse him/her from all unrighteousness (see 1 John 1:9). The Lord immediately forgives **all sins** (past, present and future), even actions and attitudes the person does not currently recognize as sins. The righteousness of Jesus is applied to the unrighteousness of the repentant believer so that he/she experiences real **goodness** for the first time. We will see what comes next in tomorrow's devotion.

Tuesday, June 11 (reread 2 Peter 1:5-11)

For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; (2 Peter 1:5)

As we rejoice that our “main” sins have been forgiven, God begins to reveal other areas of our life that are not pleasing to Him. Even though, through **faith**, we are experiencing **goodness**, more **knowledge** brings about more convictions and more need for His mercy and grace. I can testify to this truth! I once thought that by the time I reached the age of 75, I would be holy and pure. After reading through the Scriptures many times, I have gained enough **knowledge** to say with Paul, “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst” (1 Timothy 1:15b). That's because, as you grow in Christ, you begin to see yourself as God sees you. He examines your motives and your attitudes as well as your actions. Thank God for His mercy and His grace! Without them, we would all be lost!

Wednesday, June 12 (reread 2 Peter 1:5-11)

For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control and to self-control perseverance; (2 Peter 1:5-6a)

It takes personal **effort** to move from one stage of growth to another (v. 5). As I pointed out yesterday, when we first ask Jesus to come into our heart and forgive our sins, we often repent of only one sin or habit; however, with increased **knowledge**, we become aware of many areas of unholy living and thinking. This is why we need to add **self-control** to the **faith, goodness and knowledge** that have brought us to this point. This phase of Christian growth often includes habits and attitudes that we would rather not deal with, because perhaps we feel so right in our current thinking and acting. Remember this: "Your body is the temple of God" (1 Corinthians 6:19)! When Jesus comes into the temple, He throws out things you don't need anymore, just as He did in the temple in Jerusalem on two separate occasions (see John 2:12-16 & Mark 11:12-17). The process may be painful but the result is glorious!

Thursday, June 13 (reread 2 Peter 1:5-11)

For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; (2 Peter 1:5-6)

Most of us fall back into the very sin that, on the day of our salvation, we promised God we would never do again. This is even more true when we obtain **knowledge** of the many areas in which we dishonor God. That is why we need to add **perseverance** to **faith, goodness, knowledge and self-control**. In other words, don't give up even though the flesh is weak! The Holy Spirit will convict you each time you sin, and you will find that you are no longer enjoying or ignoring motives, attitudes and actions that you once relished or to which you paid little attention. It is at this point that others will see **godliness** in you, even when you cannot see it in yourself. In tomorrow's devotion, we will see the final steps in our walk to sanctification.

Friday, June 14 (reread 2 Peter 1:5-11)

For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. (2 Peter 1:5-7)

We complete our journey into **sanctification** by adding **brotherly kindness** and **agape love**. We are not really capable of true **brotherly kindness** until we experience **faith, goodness, knowledge, self-control, perseverance and godliness**. We can be kind to brothers and sisters in Christ, but we will always feel superior or inferior to them until we realize that we are **both** saved and kept by His mercy and grace. Real Christian love is defined in 1 Corinthians 13. Read that chapter and see how you stack up to the description of **agape love**. Now read it again and substitute the Name "**Jesus**" for the word "**love**" and "**He**" for the word "**it**." Prepare to be blessed!

Saturday, June 15 (reread 2 Peter 1:5-11)

Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never fall, . . . (2 Peter 1:10)

You will know that your salvation experience is real when the Holy Spirit begins to convict you of wrongdoings as He leads you into righteousness. Those who do not experience the growth process described in the passage you have read every day this week, cannot be productive and effective, because they have forgotten the fact that their sins have been forgiven by the blood of Jesus (v. 8-9). One of God's great promises concludes this text: "For if you do these things, you will never fall, and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (10b-11). "Well done, good and faithful servant" (Matthew 25:23a)! That, my friends, is **eternal security**!