

"The Building Blocks of Your Spiritual Life"

II Peter 1:3-9

Open: The Christian life in 3 statements.

- Once you are saved, you are always saved, and your spiritual growth has nothing to do with the keeping of your salvation. **John 10:28-29** "And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. [29] My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand."
- God did not intend for you to, after salvation, remain at the same spiritual level your whole life, He intended for you to grow in your spiritual life. **Heb. 6:1a** "Therefore **leaving** the principles of the doctrine of Christ, **let us go on unto perfection**; not laying again the foundation of..."
- Growth in the Christian life does not happen because one desires to grow; but **growth in the Christian life will not begin without a desire to grow.**
 - **Prov. 18:1** "Through desire a man, having separated himself, seeketh and intermeddleth with all wisdom."
 - **1 Peter 2:1-3** "Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, [2] As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: [3] If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious."

Tran:

- **II Peter 1:3-4** describes for us the quality of blessings available to the children of God. **Prov. 10:22** "The blessing of the Lord, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it."
- **II Peter 5-7** explains to us what we are to be doing with the "exceedingly great and precious promises" we've received. We are to "add to..."
- **II Peter 1:8-9** gives to us a comparison of choices. The difference of outcome between those who obey and those who disobey. (**vs. 8** – Abounding... not barren or unfruitful or **vs. 9** – Blinded... barren and unfruitful)

App: 3 Bible stories that illustrate the importance of living life in obedience to God's Words.

- God intended for man to live the best life possible; but man's decision complicated God's plans.
Gen. 3:23-24 & **II Peter 1:3**
- God wanted Israelites to prosper in the land of Caanan, but many were overthrown in the wilderness, because they did not obey. **I Cor. 10:3-6** "And did all eat the same spiritual meat; [4] And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ. [5] But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness. [6] Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted."
- God wants His children to be successful and to be happy in their spiritual life; but many will not be, because of the decision's and choices they are making. **John 15:10-11** "If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. [11] These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full."

"Salvation is not the apex of the Christian life it is the foundation. You must have a secure foundation to build a life on; but a secure foundation without a building on it is unprofitable."

- **II Peter 1:1** & **I Cor. 3: 9-15**

I. **A look at these exceedingly great and precious promises.** (*vs. 3-4*)

- **I Cor. 2:9-10** *"But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. [10] But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God."*
- Look at how God describes His promises to His children.
 - Exceeding Great = A great, so great, that it goes beyond the bounds or limits of our understanding.
 - Precious = Something that is of high or un-imaginable value.
- A. Salvation = A promise upon which no price tag can be placed. **Heb. 2:3a** *"How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation... "*
- B. God's Love = So exceedingly great that words cannot describe it. **Rom. 8:35-39** *"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? [36] As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. [37] Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. [38] For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, [39] Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."*
- C. God's Grace = So great it goes beyond the bounds of our understanding. **Rom. 5:20** *"Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:"*
- D. God's Longsuffering = So valuable that only our existence can begin to tell how great it is. **II Peter 3:9** *"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."*
- E. God's Mercy = Without God's mercies, we would not be here. **Lam. 3:22-23** *"It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. [23] They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness."*
- F. God's Forgiveness = A promise that is truly precious and exceedingly great.
 - i. **ILL:** *The conversion and calling of Paul. "...unto whom now I send thee... that they may receive forgiveness of sin..."* **Acts 26:13-18**
 - ii. **Is. 1:18** *"Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord : though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool."*
 - iii. **ILL:** *God's open arms. "...For all this his anger is not turned away, but his hand is stretched out still."*

➤ **II Peter 1:4**

- Through these promises, we are partakers of the Divine nature of God. We do not become God, but we will have access to the same blessings Jesus did.
- Through these promises, we can escape the corruption of this world's lust. Obedience by faith becomes a shield to the child of God.
- Through these promises, we can have all our desires met and even exceeded. The world only dreams of getting what God has promised the obedient child of God.

II. Understanding how we are to live the life God wants us to live. (vs. 5)

- The same way an individual gets saved is the same way they are to live their Christian life, by faith. **Gal. 2:20** "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. "

A. **Give** = "God has never asked me to give Him something that He has not replaced with something much better than I had before." **Rom. 12:1** "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."

- i. Give control of what already belongs to God, back to Him.
- ii. Give to others what God has given to me.

B. **All** = My love for Jesus is measured by how much of myself I give to Him. **Mk. 12:30** "And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment."

C. **Diligence** = To give a constant and an earnest effort to accomplish a task, faithfulness with fervor. **Heb. 11:6** "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."

- Leave it all on the field. **II Tim. 4:6-8** "I have **fought** a good fight, I have **finished** my course, I have **kept** the faith: [8] Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."

Close:

- God has so many great and wonderful things in store for the obedient child of God.
- We need to guard ourselves from creating appetites that will create actions God cannot bless.
- We need to *give all diligence* to grow into what Christ wants us to be

Prov. 10:22

"The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it."

"Review Questions"

1. God didn't intend for you to remain at the same spiritual level your whole life, He intended for you to **?????**. **Grow**.
2. Growth in the Christian life will not begin without **??????**. **Desire**.
3. List 2 of the six mentioned precious promises. **Answers may vary**.
4. How does God tell us in II Peter 1 that he wants us to live? **Giving all diligence** (to grow)