

1 Peter Week 7

Cultivating New Life

1 Peter 1:14 As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. 15 But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; 16 for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."

22 Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart. 23 For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. 24 For, "All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, 25 but the word of the Lord stands forever." And this is the word that was preached to you. 2:1 Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. 2 Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, 3 now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

- Holy living takes DENYING to self, it takes courage, and it takes commitment. When we sin it is because we *want* to sin.
- We must realize sin does not SUIT us anymore.
- We must tell sin "I don't belong to you anymore, and you do not CONTROL me anymore."
- That is the picture of pursuing holiness by DEVALUING all that is unholy.
- Absolute holiness has to be the desire and DUTY of every Christian. No gates....no compromise.

Holiness must manifest itself in our lives in two ways:

1. We must be holy in all manner of CONVERSATION.
 - This process-the Spirit's work in our lives-is called SANCTIFICATION. Defined: it's a state of proper FUNCTIONING.
 - The Spirit-directed life can only come with a surrender of my own SPIRIT and what it wants.
 - The new life offered by God begins by way of CLEANSING.
2. Conversation is followed by the way of COMMITMENT. It's my willingness to obey God's Spirit.
 - The Spirit of God is the great agent in the PURIFICATION of man's soul.
 - The Spirit also gives us a healthy understanding of the FEAR of God.
 - Satan intends trials for the destruction of our FAITH. Satan cannot steal your soul so he desires to steal your faith.
 - Remember all the trials of life are to develop CHARACTER in every believer.

- The love of God uses these trials not just to purify our lives, but also to RELEASE our faith to overcome our own weaknesses and our own bad choices.

John Piper "The world does not deserve the gift of Christian suffering. But God gives it anyway. How are these suffering saints a gift to the world? The answer lies in their faith. These all were commended through their faith."

- God sometimes works MIRACLES to rescue us from suffering.
- God sometimes gives us the faith to ENDURE misery and death and unfair treatment by man.

Two things about God's Word:

1. It's INCORRUPTIBLE
2. It's INVINCIBLE

- Faith is not just the perseverance of the saint's faith--it is knowing the PERSEVERANCE of the Lord.
- We must learn to put off all the sin that we have allowed to become comfy to us.

Peter begins with

1. MALICE-- It's an inward and sometime outward desire to harm someone; its ill will towards them.
2. GUILLE or deceit in words, no DUPLICITY (deceit dishonesty or disloyalty).
3. HYPOCRISIES In matters of religion hypocrisy is COUNTERFEIT piety.
4. ENVY-- a feeling of being discontent or resentful about what others might have that you want for the wrong reasons.
5. EVIL-SPEAKING-- it's speaking against another, or defaming him; it is rendered BACKBITING.

Final thoughts:

- We must put these things to death by having strong desires and AFFECTIONS with the goal of revealing Christ, not our hearts.
- We need to love God's Word and APPROVAL more than the words we use against people.
- Growth and improvement in WISDOM and GRACE must be the design and desire of every Christian.