

PREPARED TO LIVE IN VICTORY: STRIVING TO LIVE OUR CALLING

Houses of Light Church • September 23 y 24, 2023 • Pastor Netz Gómez

2 Pet. 1:8-11

"For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. 10 Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. 11 For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

I. GROWING BY KNOWING MORE ABOUT OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

1. v.8a **"For if these qualities are yours and are increasing...in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ"** All the qualities that Peter has described (v.5-7) are the character of Christ and when we grow in likeness to Him we know Him more; It is experimental knowledge. He is our goal, model and main motivation. We learn from Him when we live with Him and for Him.
- A. v.8b **"they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful"** If we resist this we can become unproductive in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. The danger of being useless and unproductive is real but it is avoided by yielding to the work of the Holy Spirit which leads us to increase these virtues more and more in our lives.
- B. This whole process of growth is a kind of holy ambition that makes us respond to His love more than trying to earn his love. There is a world of difference between a marriage where the husband doubts that his wife loves him and goes to great lengths to try to earn her love, and a marriage where the husband is at peace, because he is sure of his wife's love, and goes to great lengths to respond to her love happily so as not to live without deserving that love that she already has for him.
- C. Peter's point is that we must be confident that God reaches us with His divine love and it is because of this confidence that we strive not to live undeserving of His great love.

II. AVOIDING SPIRITUAL BLINDNESS

v.9 "For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins."

- A. What the Holy Spirit is saying here through the apostle Peter is that the purification of our sins is our permission and hope to continue adding these virtues. Thanks to the work of the Holy Spirit, each virtue generates growth: Faith will generate excellence, excellence will generate knowledge, knowledge will generate self-control, self-control will generate perseverance, perseverance will generate devotion and devotion will generate brotherly love and the kind of love will lead us to Christian love.

- B. That is why Peter exhorts us to strive so that this process continues in our lives. Jesus said, "to him who has, more will be given." (Matt. 13:12). Progress is a path that leads to more progress but stagnation is evidence of a process of spiritual blindness:
1. When one looks to the future, everything seems confusing; God's promises are shrouded in a haze of worldly desires. This is what it can mean to be shortsighted.
Heb. 10:23 "Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful."
 2. And when one looks back, forgiveness, which excited him/her so much in the beginning, is almost forgotten and all he/she sees is an empty prayer and a meaningless baptism ritual.
Rev. 2:4-5 "But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. s Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent."
- C. We become short-sighted by seeing things only as they present themselves at the moment, being unable to see them in the proper perspective of the Holy Spirit; We can have our eyes so fixed on the earth that we never think about anything beyond. It is easy in life to close our eyes to what we do not want to see and without realizing it walk in darkness.
Eph. 1:18 "having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints."
Jn. 8:12 "Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."
- D. It may be that Peter in this passage is thinking of Baptism, which is a deliberate act of personal decision leaving behind the old way of life and taking on the new life (Rom. 6:3-4). Those who, after baptism, do not begin to climb to the top, have forgotten, or perhaps never understood, the meaning of the experience they went through.
- E. Baptism is also incorporation into the Church as members, but if we make our commitment and then continue doing exactly the same thing, it means that we did not understand what it means to be the church, because precisely our entry into the church should be the beginning of our growth in these virtues.
- F. At Houses of Light our desire is to be a fertile ground where families flourish and progress in their spiritual, moral and emotional growth, which is why we have Friendship Groups, Schools, Support Groups,

Courses and so many other resources designed to promote constant growth.

III. MAKING OUR VOCATION AND ELECTION FIRM

2 Ped. 1:10 "Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall."

- A. This is a very powerful promise, it does not mean that we will never sin, but it does mean that while we are striving to know Jesus and grow in Him, we will never slip because we are climbing the hill instead of letting ourselves go. by inertia. If we start this race forward and upward, the effort will be great but so will God's help; and despite all the effort, He will allow us to continue until we reach the end of the journey.
- B. Our active response to the work of the Holy Spirit with an impulse of constant growth leads us not to slip and precisely for this reason we must strive to be firm in the calling we have and the identity of having been chosen by God.

2 Tim. 1:9 "who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began."

Eph. 1:4 "even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love."

- C. Confirmation that we have a calling and have been chosen is progress in sanctification. Which occurs by growing in the knowledge of Jesus which also includes adding the virtues that the Holy Spirit is pointing out in the different seasons of our lives.

2 Cor. 3:18b "And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit."

- D. In view of all this, we must make every effort to confirm our vocation in God. It was He who called us and who gave us entry into communion with Him. His grace is what enables us but that does not exempt us from every possible effort on our part.
- E. Suppose a rich and kind man chooses a poor boy who could not have had another chance, and offers him the privilege of a college education. The benefactor is giving the boy something he could not have achieved on his own; but the young man cannot make use of that privilege unless he is prepared to exert himself, and the more he exerts himself the more he will enter into the privilege offered to him. This is our call and vocation from the Lord, he is glorious and extremely generous but requires our effort.

v.11 "For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

- F. If by the grace of God we maintain this pace of growth that involves effort, focus and discipline, we will end up being generously rewarded upon our entry into the eternal Kingdom.

Ap. 3:5 "The one who conquers will be clothed thus in white garments, and I will never blot his name out of the book of life. I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels."

- G. Who doesn't want this type of reception in the eternal kingdom? The free offer and hard personal effort must be combined for the privilege to be fully effective. God has called us in his great mercy and unmerited grace; but at the same time we have to apply all our effort to continue forward and upward on the path. The final prize is more glorious than we can imagine.

IV. CONCLUSION

- A. God's Word encourages us to press toward the goal to obtain the prize of God's high calling in Christ Jesus (Phil.3:14) and thus restore our hearts and affirm our confidence that we are truly called to share the glory and the excellency of God (2 Peter 1:11).

V. REFLECTION QUESTIONS

2. What aspects is the Holy Spirit emphasizing in this season of your life to continue your growth process?
3. Do you consider the things that happen in your life as part of God's deal for your growth? Explain.
4. Are eternal rewards a motivation in your life to advance further in your spiritual growth? Explain which ones and how they motivate you.

ANUNCIOS DE ESTA SEMANA

1. The Affirming Your Steps Course has already begun for new members and Level 1 and 2 of the School of Discipleship in Spanish and English on this occasion are going to be together, but you can still sign up; Take advantage of this opportunity and register today at the table outside or at www.housesoflight.org
2. This week is our Leadership Summit and the Passion for Jesus conference September 28 to 30 for the whole family in Spanish and English. Register today at www.pasionporjesus.la or in the table outside.
3. The service on Saturday, September 30, 6:00 p.m. is part of the Passion for Jesus Conference; If you do not have a ticket, we invite you to come to either of the two services on Sunday, October 1st 8:30 or 11:00 a.m.