

Second Peter Lesson #3

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We talked last week about speaking for God in a work place that considers witnessing as a form of harassment - how should we handle this?

Acts 5:29 Peter and the other apostles replied: "We must obey God rather than men! NIV

Rom 13:1 Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.NIV

- Faith
- Goodness
- Knowledge
- Self-control
- Perseverance
- Godliness
- Brotherly Kindness
- Love

Is there is a progression here?

 We are not told for certain, but here is a possible progression:

 Faith comes first because without faith it is impossible to please God. (our starting point)

 Goodness comes next because it is the basic expectation of us; that we are good to others.

 Knowledge is one of things that is gathered and built up. It is what helps us to want to keep going in our walk of faith.

 Self-control (literally holding oneself in) is what develops in people as they grow emotionally and in Christians as we grow spiritually.

 Perseverance means we endure in doing the right things because they are right; no other reason needed.

 Godliness, is what we begin to be through faith, goodness, knowledge, etc

 Brotherly Kindness is the horizontal expression of love and is the work of God in us. Our ability to love is limited only by our cooperation with God.

 Love is the ultimate goal for the Christian – we are to pursue all of the qualities Peter lists, but love is the pinnacle.

Two Promises

 2 Peter 1:8 For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. NASB

 Ps 1:3 And he will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, Which yields its fruit in its season, And its leaf does not wither; And in whatever he does, he prospers. NASB

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"If these qualities are yours and increasing"

What contributes to the growth of these?

 Peter tells us in verse #9 that if those (8) qualities are not in some stage of development that you have forgotten the salvation transaction.

 You have forgotten that you were once lost, but God intervened on your behalf – therefore you are a debtor to His grace.

• The loving response to someone who saves your life is a life-time of remembrance.

Questions / Comments