



LET US GO ON TO PERFECTION (6)

Reaching Perfection

In this study, we have been addressing our need to reach toward perfection and how that involves examination and a proper mindset. This morning, we want to notice some more things that will help us reach perfection.

I. **Godliness, Reverence toward God –**

- a. Reverence means to render proper respect to something or to someone to whom it is due. Our interest is reverence toward God - **Psalm 111:9, Hebrews 12:28-29**.
- b. Growth begins with seeking to give God the honor and respect He deserves in our lives. This attitude will impact every aspect of our lives – our worship, our daily living – etc.
- c. **2 Peter 1:7** as a Christian is growing, he will increase in **godliness**. εὐσέβεια, (eusebeia) - to show piety and reverence. Consider: **1 Timothy 4:7-8** – exercise yourself toward godliness, **1 Timothy 6:11, 2 Peter 3:11**
- d. Reverence is **FUNDAMENTAL** to our faith **AND** growth as Christians.

II. **Integrity**

- a. As Christians, integrity means that we are honest and have strong moral convictions. These come from **WITHIN**, rather than merely outward appearance. It is character with which we will **NEVER** compromise our convictions. **2 Peter 1:5 - Virtue** - “moral excellence” **Philippians 4:8** virtue is a quality of the times of things we are to meditate upon
- b. We need brutal honesty as we examine where we are. Our faith is a matter of eternity.

III. **Put away things that hinder**

- a. **We are in the race for our lives! 1 Corinthians 9:24-27**. Let us strive to run it with efficiency.
- b. **Hebrews 12:1-2**. As we strive to reach perfection, we must get rid of obstacles.
 1. **Lay aside the “sin which so easily snares us” – cf. 2 Corinthians 2:11**
 2. **Lay aside the “weights”** – that would be anything that slows us down. There may be things not wrong within themselves, but if we let them stand in our way of serving God
- c. **Get rid of the clutter!** Overcrowded lives get in our way. **Matthew 6:24**

IV. **With Diligence** – if you want to reach maturity, it will require diligence.

- a. Anything worth doing, is worth doing right. Anything worth doing takes diligent effort
- b. We must give our best and keep growing - **2 Timothy 2:15, Ephesians 4:3**

V. **Develop self-control and discipline**

- a. Self-control describes one who is master over his emotions and conduct.
- b. It is a fruit (or product) of the Spirit (**Galatians 5:22-23**), and **2 Peter 1:6**
- c. **EVERY** sin we commit has to do with our self-control or lack thereof.
- d. Bring everything into subjection to Him – **1 Corinthians 9:27, 2 Corinthians 10:5**
- e. It will keep you from doing what you will regret and keep you doing what you should do.

VI. **2 Peter 1:5-11**

- a. Many of the points discussed thus far are part of this text!
- b. Others to consider - **Faith** – the foundation of our growth; **Knowledge** -to grow, we **HAVE** to spend time studying; **Patience (perseverance)** – or longsuffering; **Brotherly kindness** and **Love** – agape - *caring enough to sacrifice for what is best* - **Matthew 22:37-39, 1 Peter 2:17**. Friends, simply stated – **WE HAVE TO CARE!**
- c. What is the result of developing these things –
 1. **You will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.**
 2. **If you do these things, you will never stumble.** Cf. **Romans 11:11 & James 2:10**
 3. **For so an entrance will be supplied into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ –Romans 2:7-** eternal life awaits those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor and immortality.

Don't let your failure to grow as a Christian keep you from your eternal reward in heaven