

GODLINESS

2PETER 1:6

Text:

2 Peter 1:6

⁶And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;

Introduction:

Thus far we have learned that the Highly Effective Christian....

- 1) Practices Diligence
- 2) Cultivates Virtue (Determination)
- 3) Concentrates on Increasing Biblical Knowledge
- 4) Develops "Temperance"
- 5) Maintains Patience or Spiritual Endurance

And we find in verse 6 that we are to add to "patience", "godliness."

What is "godliness?"

The term refers to responding to God properly with reverence and devotion. It is having a right understanding and response to Who God Is and What God Has Done. It is a desire to have our character transformed to be like the character of God.

I believe the point of this, especially in light of the progression of spiritual growth that Peter gives us as we add to our faith, is simply this. The Christian life is much more than just obeying commands, it's obeying God!

We will not grow much as a believer until we understand that we are not engaged in an effort to keep a set of rules, but we are involved in the relationship of relationships. We are developing our relationship with the Living God!

Let's add to our faith..."godliness", a genuine desire to honor God.

We find an illustration of this in the Old Testament.

Turn to Isaiah 6

Notice:

1. ISAIAH SAW THE LORD (ISAIAH 6:1-3)

Isaiah 6:1-3

¹ In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. ² Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. ³ And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, *is* the LORD of hosts: the whole earth *is* full of his glory.

A. "In the year that King Uzziah died..."

(Isaiah 6:1) "In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple."

1. Uzziah had been a great and powerful king.
 - a. He began to reign when he was only 16 years old, and reigned for 52 years.
 - b. He sought for God and God made him prosper.
 - c. He was a mighty warrior and God gave him many great victories.

2. In his day everything was centered on the king, and with him dead there was a great void, because he had been a great king.

3. Isaiah perhaps had his eyes upon the great king, but now God removes him from his sight.

4. He describes an event that took place in his life that changed him forever and made him a different man.

5. Like many who are preoccupied with other people or things, Isaiah had not been focusing upon God.

B. "I saw the Lord..."

1. Isaiah, now unable to look to Uzziah, looks to God and finds out what God is really like.

2. He saw the Lord enthroned.

2. ISAIAH SAW HIMSELF (ISAIAH 6:5-7)

(Isaiah 6:5-7) "Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the

midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts. {6} Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar: {7} And he laid it upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged."

A. Isaiah's Confession.

(Isaiah 6:5) "Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts."

1. His vision did something for Isaiah.

a. It changed him completely.

b. He didn't shout, but he began to sob.

c. It made him weep because it brought him to a sense of sin.

d. This is the greatest need for us to see revival.

2. He cried, "Woe is me!"

a. This was the outward expression of the inward conviction.

b. Seeing God, he became aware of himself.

c. The same thing happened to Peter in Luke 5:8.

(Luke 5:8) "When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord."

d. It happened to John in Rev. 1:17

(Revelation 1:17) "And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last:"

3. He said, "I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips."

a. He confessed his sin and his helplessness to do anything about it.

b. He confessed that he was unclean and that his people were also unclean.

c. He didn't tell the Lord how honest and upright was... he knew that he wasn't.

d. Unclean lips are the result of an unclean heart.

(Matthew 15:11) "Not that which goeth into the mouth defileth a man; but that which cometh out of the mouth, this defileth a man."

B. Isaiah's Cleansing.

(Isaiah 6:6-7) "Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar: {7} And he laid it upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged."

1. The live coal.

a. Came from the brazen altar where the sacrifices had been offered.

b. God brought the cleansing after Isaiah repented.

c. Before he could be used of God,

he needed to be cleansed by God.

2. The lips were cleansed.

a. "Thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin is purged...."

b. God meets our specific needs.

3. ISAIAH SAW THE NEED

(Isaiah 6:8) "Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me."

A. "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us...?"

1. God asked for volunteers.

2. God is looking for someone to send to tell others of the precious truth concerning Christ.

3. God is always looking for someone to represent Him.

B. "Then said I, Here am I...."

1. Now that he was changed and now that he was cleansed.
2. He was ready to commit his life to the service of God.
3. He looked up and saw the Lord, he looked in and saw himself, but when he looked out he saw the world and its need.
4. When revival comes, we begin to care about the needs of others.

C. "...Send me..."

1. When Isaiah said, "Send me" God said, "Go."
2. If we are unwilling to go, who will?
3. There needs to be within us a readiness to obey God's will and carry the message to those who have never heard.

What will it take for genuine revival? A new awareness of God, A new awareness of self, and a new concern for souls. God wants to send revival, but we must be willing to receive it from Him. When our hearts are right, then we are ready to serve.