

SERMON OUTLINE

THE SPIRITUAL LADDER OF VIRTUE

2 PETER 1:5-7

MAY 8TH, 2022

I. THE MOTIVATION FOR CLIMBING THE SPIRITUAL LADDER: VS. 5A

- “And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.” – Colossians 2:13-14

MOTIVATIONS FOR OBEDIENCE IN 2 PETER

1. We pursue holiness so that we might become partakers of the divine nature (1:4).	11. We pursue holiness because sin never delivers on its promises (2:17).
2. We make every effort to grow in godliness because God has already set us free from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire (1:4).	12. We pursue holiness because those who live in their sin again are like those returning to slavery, returning to the mire, and returning to vomit (2:19-21).
3. We grow in grace so we will not be ineffective and unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ (1:8).	13. We must remember to be holy so we will not be drawn away by those scoffers who will come in the last days following their own sinful desires (3:3).
4. We pursue Christlike character so we will not be blind, having forgotten that we were cleansed from our former sins (1:9).	14. We make every effort to be godly because the world will not always continue as it does now; the heavens and the earth are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly (3:4-7).
5. We work hard at holiness in order to make our calling and election sure, so that we will not fall (1:10).	15. We must take Christlikeness seriously right now because we do not know when the Lord will return (3:10).
6. We practice these godly qualities so there will be richly provided for us an entrance into the eternal kingdom (1:11).	16. We pursue holiness because all our works will be exposed on the last day (3:10).
7. We pursue godliness because Jesus is coming back again in great power, and we know this to be true because of the glory revealed on the Mount of Transfiguration and because of the prophecy of Scripture (1:16-21).	17. We pursue holiness because whatever we live for in this life will be burned up and dissolved (3:11).
8. We walk in obedience to Christ because those who wander into sensuality are condemned and will be destroyed (2:3).	18. We strive to walk in obedience and repentance because in so doing we may hasten the coming of the day of God (3:12).
9. We are serious about holiness because we believe God knows how to judge the wicked and save the righteous (2:4-10).	19. We live in righteousness now because we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness will dwell forever (3:13).
10. We turn from ungodliness because those who revel in sin are ugly blots and blemishes, irrational animals, unsteady souls, and accursed children (2:10-16).	20. We pursue godliness so that Christ might be glorified both now and to the day of eternity (3:18).

II. THE METHOD OF CLIMBING THE SPIRITUAL LADDER: VS. 5B-7

- “He who does not long to know more of Christ, knows nothing of Him yet.” – CS Spurgeon
- “You will say that these are very small sins; and doubtless, like all young tempters, you are anxious to be able to report spectacular wickedness...It does not matter how small the sins are, provided that their cumulative effect is to edge the man away from the Light and out into the Nothing...Indeed the safest road to Hell is the gradual one—the gentle slope, soft underfoot, without sudden turnings, without milestones, without signposts.” – CS Lewis, Screwtape Letters

- “Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.” – Philippians 2:12-13
- The Holy Spirit’s work is a synergistic work, which refers to occasions that combine our effort with his enabling power. But this isn’t a pure synergism, as if we and the Spirit each contributed equal power to the task. Rather, we work as he enables us to work, so we use the expression qualified synergism. We’re 100 percent dependent on His power in order to participate in the work, as the psalmist illustrated: “Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain” ([Psalm 127:1](#)). – Jerry Bridges

BENEDICTION: “Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.” – Ephesians 3:20-21