

Know the Effort

2 Peter 1:5-7

“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.” (Ephesians 2:8-9 ESV)

Definition: Sanctification is that inward work of God where His redeemed are practically transformed to think, speak, relate, labor and behave like Jesus.

Truth: If you believe in Jesus, your life will be conformed to Him. The Holy Spirit who is now in us will drive sin from us. Our sanctification is the key evidence that we really are children of God.

Main Idea: Our salvation is a gift of God’s grace. Yet our sanctification requires that we cooperate with God’s Spirit to grow in godliness. Let us make every effort to live for the glory of God!

God’s Part in our Growth toward Godliness

--God’s Son: God gives His Son so that we might have life.

“knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ. . .” (1 Peter 1:18-19 ESV)

“For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God,” (1 Peter 3:18 ESV)

--God’s Calling: God sets His love upon His the redeemed before the foundation of the world.

--God’s New Life: God places His life in our soul.

--God’s Promises: God makes promises to strengthen us as we grow.

Our Part in our Growth toward Godliness

--Our Fight: We must battle against strong enemies if we are to grow.

“Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, . . .” (1 Peter 5:8-9a ESV)

How do we make every effort to fight against the enemies of God?

1. We must acknowledge the spiritual war every day.
2. We must pray that the Holy Spirit will alert us to the deceptions that we tend to believe.
3. We must receive the benefit of God’s provisions.
4. We must suffer.

Truth: Our spiritual progress will require our spiritual effort!

--Our Investment

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:19-21 ESV)

How do we invest in our spiritual growth?

1. We invest by spending time with Jesus.
2. We invest by confessing our sins daily.
3. We invest by committing to God’s new community.
4. We invest by encouraging our brothers and our sisters
5. We invest by finding ways to serve Jesus in His church.
6. We invest by placing all our time and treasures before the LORD.
7. We invest by loving God and submitting our lives to Him daily.

--Our Vision

FAITH: The quality of trusting the LORD and not leaning on our own understanding.

VIRTUE: The quality of goodness that leads us as a moral compass in a world of moral chaos.

KNOWLEDGE: The quality of knowing the mind of Christ.

SELF-CONTROL: The quality of restraining our flesh’s sinful impulses and pursuing God’s good commands.

STEADFASTNESS: The quality of persevering through hardship in the hope of God’s promises.

GODLINESS: The quality of being conscious of God’s presence in your life every moment and imitating Him.

BROTHERLY AFFECTION: The quality of caring as much for our spiritual family as we do for our natural family.

LOVE: The quality of pursuing God’s best for others through a willing sacrifice of one’s own resources, comfort, agenda and opinion.

Practical uses for this list:

1. To praise God for His part in your salvation.
2. To measure how you have grown this past year.
3. To guide you in your prayers and investments for growth in this coming year.