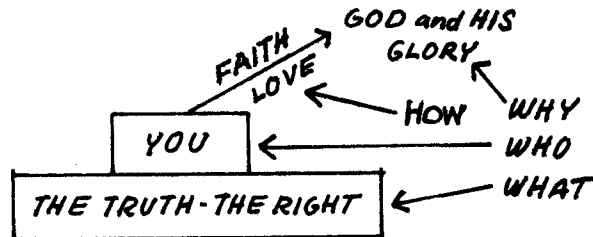


Lesson #6—The Daily Christian Life and the Glory of God.

Introduction

- A. We have considered that there are three facets of the Christian's life that are **necessary for spiritual success**.
1. We must obey God and **do what is right** (the will of God).
 2. We must do what is right by **faith and love**.
 3. We must do what is right, by faith and love, **for the glory of God**.
- B. Too often our Christian life settles down into a **lethargic, externalized** doing what is right (church attendance, perfunctory Bible readings and prayer).
- C. The real test of success is not only **what** we do (the right), not only **how** we do it (faith and love), but **why** we do it (the glory of God).
- D. In this lesson before us we wish to consider these various factors in a practical application in your life and mine.



I. The Encouragement for Living for the Glory of God.

To Whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God and precious, Ye also, as lively (living) stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of Him Who hath called you out of darkness into His marvellous light, Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God, which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy. I Peter 2:4, 5, 9, 10

- A. We are "living stones"—that designates our nature.
1. Through Jesus Christ, the "living stone" (v4), we have been given spiritual life (John 3:36).
 2. Once dead to God (Eph. 2:1), we are now spiritually alive and united to Him by a living union (I John 5:12).
 3. In this spiritual birth our inner self, our person, has been made alive to God (Eph. 2:1-10).
 4. In calling us "living stones" there is the indication of purpose. We have been chosen for a purpose. It is to live and serve for His glory and honor.
- B. We are a "spiritual house"—that designates our identity.
1. As each stone in Solomon's temple received its identity by being placed into the building, so we have been placed by God into the body of Christ—the Church.
 2. This is a reminder that God created us as spiritual beings. Our basic characteristic is not related to the material, but to the spiritual. When we violate this truth we invite confusion.
 3. As a "spiritual house" we are God's temple. He indwells us. We belong to Him (Hebrews 3:6). We must accept this truth.

C. We are a "holy, royal priesthood"—that designates our **office**.

1. A priest is one who has the **authority** and the **ability** to represent God to man and man to God.
2. The terms "holy" and "royal" teach us that our priesthood is primarily **spiritual** (in contrast to the Old Testament priesthood) and **kingly** in that it is related to the service of the great King—the Lord Jesus Christ.
3. What serious failure and judgment we bring into our lives when we fail, by ignorance or neglect, to obediently do the work of a priest. This is often a primary reason why a Christian does not have God's blessing in his life and why he lives without spiritual fulfillment.

D. We are a "chosen generation"—that designates our **relationship**.

1. The term "generation" indicates that we are a group of persons that have been united by God's choice of each of us.
2. We are chosen by God to be a part of His people and to do His will.
3. Here we are instructed in the great honor God has conferred upon us. We have been chosen by God Himself to take part in His eternal plan.

E. We are a "holy nation"—that designates our **character**.

1. The word "holy" in this verse is not referring to our actions as much as it indicates the **kind of a person** we are.
2. Since we have been chosen by God we belong to Him—not to ourselves.
3. The designation "holy" could well be paraphrased "separated". God's choice has **separated us** unto Himself.

YOU

**PERSON - GOD'S TEMPLE
OFFICE - GOD'S PRIEST
CALLING - GOD'S CO-WORKER**

F. We are a "peculiar people"—that designates our **value**.

1. The old English word "peculiar" means "marked out as purchased" or "personal possession".
2. Behind the concept of "purchased" in this verse lies the life, death and Resurrection of the Lord Jesus. He laid down His life for us.
3. All of this reminds us that the believer has been purchased by God and is therefore God's property. What value God must place upon us—to give such a sacrifice for us. How deeply we sin when we regard ourselves as worthless and inferior and then live that way!

Observation:

1. All of these designations are **summarized** in the term "people of God" v10.
2. The **purpose** of all of this is indicated in v9—to "shew forth the praises of Him Who hath called you out of darkness into His marvellous light".

II. **The Instruction for Living for the Glory of God.**

A. **Fruitfulness** will glorify God, John 15:8.

Herein is My Father **glorified**, that ye bear much **fruit**, so shall ye be My disciples.

Observation: Since the vine is the Lord Jesus (v1), the fruit would be a manifestation of **His person**, i.e., His character, His attributes in the life of the believer. This is referring to living a life of **truth** (not pretending, not wearing a mask, not playing a role), living a life of **love** (not selfishness, self-centeredness), living a life of **holiness** (not sensuality or pleasure oriented).

B. **Unity** will glorify God, Romans 15:5, 6.

Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be **like-minded** one toward another according to Christ Jesus;

That ye may with **one mind and one mouth glorify God**, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Observation: God has united us to one another in Christ. Unity is a Biblical characteristic of the church. When we allow some personal matter to divide us in our practice and attitude we are violating a very fundamental spiritual truth. God is glorified when we choose to practice what we—"one in Christ" (I Cor. 12). All divisions with their grudges and bitterness must be **confessed as sin and forsaken**.

1. <i>FRUITFULNESS</i>	}	<i>GOD</i> <i>and HIS</i> <i>GLORY</i>
2. <i>UNITY</i>		
3. <i>SELF-CONTROL</i>		
4. <i>GENEROSITY</i>		
5. <i>TRUST</i>		

C. **Self-control** will glorify God, I Cor. 6:19, 20.

What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

For ye are bought with a price, therefore, **glorify God in your body, and in your spirit**, which are God's.

Observation: This verse does **not** teach that it is wrong for us to enjoy ourselves. It does remind us of the purpose of our life—to glorify God. We must recognize how we fit into that plan bodily and spiritually and then learn how to live that way. When our physical or non-physical desires run counter to the one great purpose of our existence then we must "take charge" and bring our life into harmony with God's will.

D. **Generosity** will glorify God, II Cor. 9:12, 13.

For the administration of this service not only supplieth the want of the saints, but is abundant also by many thanksgivings unto God;

While by the experiment of this ministration they **glorify God** for your professed subjection unto the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal distribution unto them, and unto all men....

Observation: Paul is here commending the Christians for taking up an offering for the saints in Judea. He spoke of this as causing God to be glorified. When God supplies our need we must be open to His leading—in how we spend His money. We are to be **stewards** of our possessions and learn to give for His glory.

E. **Trust in trials** will glorify God, I Peter 1:7, 8.

That the **trial of your faith**, being much more **precious** than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, **might be found unto praise and honor and glory** at the appearing of Jesus Christ;

Whom having not seen, ye **love**, in Whom, though now ye see Him not, **yet believing**, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory.

Observation: Our reaction to trials will indicate our true spiritual condition. Peter here instructs us in how we should **respond** to those problems and tests of life by use of the words "precious" and "love" and "yet believing". This is the opposite of the attitude which asks "why?" with a selfish and doubtful whine in our voice. **God is glorified when we love and trust Him in the trials of life.**

III. **The Explanation for Living for the Glory of God.**

Who (Abraham) against hope **believed in hope**, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be.

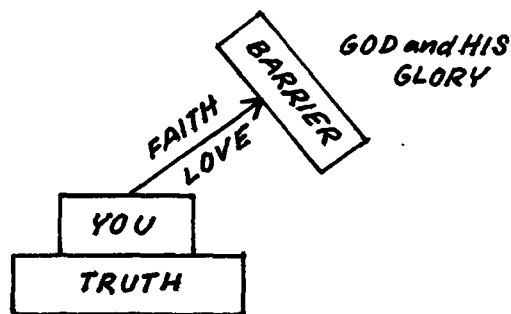
And being not weak in faith, he **considered not his own body** now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, **neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb.**

He **staggered not** at the promise of God through unbelief, but was **strong in faith, giving glory to God;**

And being **fully persuaded** that, what He (God) had promised, He was able also to perform. Romans 4:18-21

Observations:

1. This passage is given to us to show us **how** we are to respond to God through His Word and claim His promises.
2. **Negatively**, Abraham did not:
 - a. Give way to the feeling of hopelessness, V18.
 - b. He did not allow his inability nor that of Sarah's to influence him, V19.
 - c. He did not allow unbelief to hinder him, V20.
3. **Positively**, Abraham did:
 - a. Choose to reject the above three items.
 - b. He chose to believe God through His Word and live that way, Vs 18 and 21.
4. This is our model for faith. We must believe God and practice His Word in regard to His instructions and promises—doing it all **aggressively trusting Him.**
 - a. Believe God regarding fruitfulness, John 15:8.
 - b. Believe God regarding unity, Romans 15:5, 6.
 - c. Believe God regarding self-control, I Cor. 6:19, 20.
 - d. Believe God regarding generosity, II Cor. 9:12, 13.
 - e. Believe God regarding trials, I Peter 1:7, 8.



Conclusion:

- A. Now we must ask regarding the "what", "how" and "why" in our own lives.
 1. Are we doing that which is **right** (the will of God)?
 2. Are we doing that which is right by **faith and love**?
 3. Are we doing that which is right, by faith and love, **for the glory of God**?
- B. Unconfessed sin, neglect, lack of faith or love, selfishness, and all unwillingness to give ourselves to the one great purpose of our creation and salvation—will seriously hamper our progress and success. We must be honest about this and ask God to help us. Are we willing to change?