

“Walking With God in Integrity:
The Historical Witness” Part II

In our initial session this morning, the focus was upon some very basic ideas that are foundational to under girding any reflection of the mechanics of the spiritual life relative to the Christian life. There are some things I did not have the time to express.

1. That there is a lot of confusion in the churches concerning the practical side of walking with the Lord. Some teachers paint an idealized picture that simply is fiction, yet such teachers can lead the serious listener to guiltiness and the naïve to misplaced confidence.
2. Walking with God must begin with the recognition four things.
 - a) We must become students of our God and ourselves (**the mental**).
 - b) We must come to grips with divine sovereignty and splendor (**the ever-first priority**).
 - c) We must realize the fact that the struggle with sin is an ongoing, never-in-this-life over (**the ever-present fact of sin**).
 - d) We must constantly remember that we are “in Christ;” we are perfect in the mind of God (**the wonder of redemption**).

Some preliminary observations about the spiritual life:

1. The Christian life is a mental struggle. What you entertain, what you focus upon, is what you will become and do. Therefore, right thoughts are of utmost importance.
2. The spiritual life boils down to actions based on priorities. The internal manifests itself in the external.
3. Walking with God is a process; we are all on a journey. There is no beatific plateau in this life. There are plateaus, but life is exceedingly complex.
4. It is confusing to realize that there are godly people believing very diverse things about how to walk with God. This suggests that the

- c. What must be God's intent in the Bible?
- III. What is the subjective experience of redemption? Where does true change take place in us? What is the nature of the changes? Where do the changes principally occur (**the point of redemption**)?
- a. What is the make-up of mankind (Gen.2:7)?
- 1) The dual components of mankind.
 - 2) The components of mankind's immaterial nature (the diamond image)
- b. How do people make decisions? On what basis do people decide?
- c. What is the experience of experiencing the life of God in the soul?
- IV. What is the nature of the Spirit's indwelling of us? What does the indwelling of the Spirit have to do with the spiritual life (**the means of glorification in redemption**)?
- a. Is the role of the Holy Spirit to apply the benefits of Christ's purchased or is He the purchased benefit (Rom.8:9, Eph.1:13, II Peter 1:4)?
- b. What is the nature of the indwelling of the Spirit? How does the Spirit manifest himself within us (Gal 5:22-24)?
- 1) Is the indwelling of the Spirit nine things or one thing?
"the fruit of the Spirit is..."

- 2) Do all Christians possess all nine manifestations of the Spirit's presence? If the nine "fruit" is the Spirit and we are indwelt by Him, then the nine "fruit" is possessed by all Christians.

- 3) Do all Christians have the same proportions of the "fruit" of the Spirit?

- 4) Are the proportions of the "fruit" of the Spirit relative to situations? Can a person have a greater or lesser proportion of love in changing circumstances?

- V. What is the practical import of all this? What are we to do with our lives? What is our purpose (**the making of a lifestyle**)?
- a. How is the spiritual life to be understood and envisioned?

b. What is the nature of spiritual progress?

c. What are the implications of this understanding of the spiritual life?

- 1) All Christian are godly because they have the Spirit within them. There are areas of maturity in all of us.

- 2) All Christians are immature in many areas because in certain circumstances we are spiritually underdeveloped.
- 3) All Christians simultaneously can be a help and a hindrance to others because we are mature and immature.
- 4) Since God is glorified when He sees Himself in us, and has made this possible through our redemption in Christ and indwelling by the Spirit, our purpose in living is not to do things for God so much as it is to reflect God's character. God is glorified in His seeing, more than in our doing. The issue with God is character.
- 5) How do we develop the manifestation of the "fruit" of the Spirit in our lives is the subject before us over the next two evenings.