

Christian Personality Milestones

“1 Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ: 2 Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, 3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: 4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. 5 And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; 6 And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; 7 And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. 8 For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. 10 Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: 11 For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.” (2 Peter 1:1-11 KJV)

In facing the threats of this world, the globalization and materialism and all types of corruption, and for dealing with varied types of trials and hardships, and for facing the dangers of false teaching and false doctrines, and for making our election sure while we are waiting patiently for the second coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to judge the whole world, Christians need to be armed by skills that enable them to stand firm; skills that protecting them from backsliding and swaying from the right way, and to be ready to deal with different standards.

Peter in his letter to a group of Christian believers who were persecuted, and oppressed by a group of false religions and beliefs, and tempted by a group of lawless men, he provided them with a safety key to sail in this raging world. **He emphasized to them and to us today two facts; that God has acted but man must cooperate, and both these facts are essential.**

“1 Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ:” (2 Peter 1:1 KJV) Many people when they will read about Simon Peter, the first thing that will come to their minds that he was an apostle of Christ, and so his faith and his walk with God something is different from us and so he could cope better with the trials and the troubles that God allowed for him to pass through. But such thought is not correct. Peter here corrected that wrong thought when he said the following: ***“to them that have obtained like precious faith with us”***. What he was telling here is very clear that he was sending his letter to those, including us today, who had received and obtained a like precious faith that Peter and the rest of the apostles had obtained from God. *** So we are not only privileged and blessed but we are as well as accountable to God to live and behave and abide like what the rest of the apostles of Jesus Christ did. * The faith that we received**

through the righteous of God and our Savior Jesus Christ who died on the cross and shed his blood for our sins dictate on each and every believer of us to live a holy life and abide with the truth and live to serve God and to do His will. * Faith that God gave us is a faith that can move mountain and faith that can bring miracles and dramatic changes in our lives and in the ministries that God gave us and in the life of our church.

“2 Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,” (2 Peter 1:2 KJV) When we come to know God and our Lord Jesus Christ, we are under the great blessings of God, and this what Peter declared to us, that grace and peace, not in a small amount, but be multiplied to us by the knowledge of God through faith in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Therefore, we in Christ Jesus have the same faith of the apostles and we have grace and peace multiplied for us to live in abundance of God’s care and love.**

“3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:” (2 Peter 1:3 KJV) We are well provided as Apostle Peter declared here. The divine power of God had made such an arrangement that He had given us all what we need in pertain for life and Godliness. *** This mean before the day or the time had arrived God had sent His provision to meet that particular need of us. * That means if we decided to live a life for God then we have all the provision of God for us, and that is the secret of satisfaction and we will not be in need as we are directing all our resources in order to do God’s will and to please Him and in such we are serving God, as He had called us to do the good works that He prepared for us that we will be glorified in Him as we are keeping the good attitude and living in holiness. * This also means if you will be going to deviate from God then the resource that God gave would not be available for such and you will be falling into troubles and will not be able to maintain a life that you are well maintained and well provided.**

“4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.” (2 Peter 1:4 KJV) In addition to all what He had provided for us, God had given us His great and precious promises that He bestowed on us, and in such we were enabled to be partakers with Him in His divine nature, that on earth we are working with God and for God to do what He wants us to do to execute His will. That we are the salt of the earth to live the Word of God and to declare His will and to live it, and to be a light to others to see clearly and to demonstrate to them the path that they need to pass through. *** So here you need to understand that you are on earth is part of the divine nature of God that you need to actively serve Him, living in holiness and imparting His Word and His will to others. That you need to stand firm against all the corruption and compromises in this world that is around you. * The great and the precious promises of God is also to make you able to escape the degradation and the dissolution of this world; that you don’t need to cheat, to tell lies, to fraud, to give bribe, or compromise to get good things, instead those good and precious promises of God that we read in the Bible is to enable us to say ‘No’, to sin, trusting God that He had provided for us all what we are going to need in life and Godliness if we continue to live in Holiness and according to His Word and will, and that we will be worthy of His grace, and will be able to approach the stage of wholesome thinking and wholesome living that God wants us to be. ***

The great and the precious promises of God is also to teach us no more for worldliness and no more to be ambitious to do our own will and to do our own plans but to humble down before God and accept His will for us, and what He wants us to do and how He wants us to live for Him, that no more we will be after our own plans but that we will endeavor to go after Him, following Jesus, going through the narrow gate that He had made and prepared for us to go through in order to be saved.

“5 And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; 6 And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; 7 And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.” (2 Peter 1:5-7 KJV) God through this passage outlined to us the milestones for the Christian’s soul development and the booming of his personality. And these milestones are:

1. Faith: as Peter said in verse 1, **“to them that have obtained like precious faith with us”**. Faith is the full trust in God, the unseen, in fulfilling all His promises to us. Putting in mind that God’s time scale differs from our scale. **“1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” (Hebrews 11:1 KJV)** Faith in God means also that you need to obey God’s Word and to do them. Faith is the basic thing that you need to have, **“And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith”**, that means in addition to your faith you need to add other characters to your faith in order to show that you have the true, the genuine, and the sincere faith in God because faith without deed is dead. Therefore giving all diligence you need to add to your faith the following milestones:

2. Virtue or goodness: Virtue means asset, good quality, good feature, desirable quality, good value, good worth, or high merit, which is the moral uprightness that ultimately leads to fruitful, productive, beneficial and high quality life in the entire situation irrespective to the people and circumstances around us. Virtue will translate our faith into actions or deeds, **“10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.” (Ephesians 2:10 KJV)** And to virtue add,

3. Knowledge: Not only in the fields of our professions, but to equal importance in the Word of God that comes from the continuous reading of the Bible, careful study of the Scriptures, and measure any interpretation of the passages in accordance to the whole Word of God. For all the scriptures are the Word of God, in addition to the Rhema Word that the Holy Spirit brings to us and that comes out of His mouth, that will reach us being the voice of the Holy Spirit, then we will be able to do what God wants from us to achieve. And when we apply that knowledge in our life in accordance to our faith in Him we will have the wisdom. Such knowledge and wisdom will make our life fruitful. **“6 For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.” (Proverbs 2:6 KJV)** And to knowledge add,

4. Temperance or self-control: Which is to live away from profligate life of worldliness and over spending, and away from any evil and immoral desire, and to avoid the fall into the fatal sins of lust, greed, laziness, pride, anger, jealousy, and envy. **“26 Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established. 27 Turn not to the right hand nor to the left: remove thy foot from evil.” (Proverbs 4:26-27**

KJV) Temperance or self-control it means you must know which time that you need to stop and not to go further which shall cause you sin. And to temperance add,

5. Patience or perseverance: To be steadfast in maintaining the same righteous style of living in facing difficult times and in the trials; and to wait patiently for the appointments of God and not to be disappointed. **“2 My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; 3 Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. 4 But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.” (James 1:2-4 KJV)** **“7 Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. 8 Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh. 9 Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned: behold, the judge standeth before the door. 10 Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience. 11 Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.” (James 5:7:11 KJV)** and to patience add,

6. Godliness: Which is the ability to differentiate the right and the wrong in the eyes of God and to live in a Godly way of living, and away from the wrong ways; this is the attitude of God-fearing man who seeks God, endeavor to know the ways of God and walk in them. And to Godliness add,

7. Brotherly kindness: This is the empathetic carrying of one another’s burdens and needs. **“2 Bear ye one another’s burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.” (Galatians 6:2 KJV)** We can help our brethren, by giving them the Word of God, the advices that comes from God’s Word and help them to follow God, by praying for them, and by helping them in whatever temporal needs that we can provide for them. And to brotherly kindness add,

8. Charity: Charity is a sacrificial and unconditional love, and is giving and not lustful or emotional love. Charity or lov is not only to the worthy one, but also to the unworthy and even extend to our enemies. Love is not to harm our neighbors, **“8 Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law. 9 For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. 10 Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.” (Romans 13:8-10 KJV)** Charity is to carry the following right attitudes and behaviors, **“4 Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, 5 Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; 6 Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; 7 Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.” (1 Corinthians 13:4-7 KJV)**

My Dear and Beloved: After the previous description of all the above characters, you can review yourself and find what you have from the above milestones, and what you are still lacking from them. Obtaining the above characters make you a

productive person and a dynamic member in the body of Christ, and mutate you to a light for the darkness that surrounds you. For gaining these ingredients with increasing measures and fostering them, they will transform you to be more like Jesus and to be a perfect example of Christianity. And you will show Christ to others, for they cannot see Him alone but they will see Him through you. **“8 For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (2 Peter 1:8 KJV)** When you have all the following eight characters; faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, Godliness, brotherly kindness, and charity, and you have them in great amounts, then such will make you fruitful in your knowledge of Christ and no more barren but fruit bearer, service provider, have more fruit of the Spirit and have more services, ministries and good works that God had prepared for you to do.

“9 But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.” (2 Peter 1:9 KJV) Therefore if you are not having the above marks, milestones, and characters, and you are not working to obtain them, then you are not only blind but in the midst of darkness as well, and you cling to Christ only by name, and have forgotten that you have been cleansed from your old sins.

In conclusion to all the above, let us read the following: **“10 Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: 11 For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.” (2 Peter 1:10-11 KJV)** * Therefore you need to work hard to make your calling and election sure by cultivating faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, Godliness, brotherly kindness, and charity in great quantity, and in such you will be a successful worker and minister for Christ, that you will never fail. * Your salvation shall be sure and your name shall continue in the book of life, and you shall receive a rich welcome and greetings in the everlasting Kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ upon His second coming, **“17 Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness. 18 But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.” (2 Peter 3:17-18 KJV)** Now commit yourself and pray to God to equip you in order to do His will. Let us pray ...

My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your Word, for all your promises, and the teaching we received in this message. Lord thank you for the precious faith, your grace and peace that you lavished on us. Lord thank you for the eternal life that we received in Jesus. Lord, thank you for your divine power that had given us everything we need in life and Godliness. Lord thank you for your great and precious promises that we can be part of the divine nature and escape the corruption in this world. Lord thank you for your provision, your help in times of trials, rejection and persecution, and thank you for all the encouragements, the corrections and the rebukes we received from you.

Now repent and renounce all your sins. Renounce your lack of faith and your lack of trust in God. Repent of your lack of good quality features and moral uprightness that

leads to fruitful, productive, beneficial and high quality life. Repent of your lack of fear of God, and living and doing your own ways, will and plans. Repent of your worldliness and your yoke with non believers and many friends. Repent of your lust, immoralities, and the rest of the works of the flesh. Repent of your selfishness, doing your own will, lack of commitment and non willingness to give to God your time, your effort and your material things. Repent of your lack of patience and self-control. Repent of your lack of brotherly kindness and charity. Repent from your non willingness to persevere while persecuted and suffer for Christ. Repent from wasting your time and spoiling your mind with the Media. Repent of your lack of reading God's Word in the Bible and studying the Scripture, and your lack of prayer. Lord I repent from the following sins _____.

Lord I commit myself to follow you in full obedience to your Word and commands. Lord I commit myself to work out with you to have the following characters; faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, Godliness, brotherly kindness, and charity, and to have them with an increasing measures. Lord give me patience and perseverance as I am waiting for you to come and take us with you for eternity. Lord I commit my life into your hand to live in holiness and to persevere in facing trials, having faith in you and trusting you that you will provide all my needs. Lord I commit myself to be fruit bearer, service provider and doing the good works that your prepare for me to do. Lord uphold me with your love and grace and provide for me and encourage me so I can continue to serve you and do your will, this is my prayer in Jesus name Amen.

Lord thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who repented of their sins and committed themselves to work out with you to have these characters; faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, Godliness, brotherly kindness, and charity, and to have them with increasing measure. Lord protect them and provide for them so that they will continue to live for you, serving you, being part of the divine nature, and setting good example to others to follow you. Lord do miracles and wonders in their lives and uphold them with victories so people will know that you are the true God and they are your servants.

Lord we pray for us as a church that we will continue to serve you, to be part of the divine nature and that we will do all what we can to escape the corruption in this world. Lord protect us, our families, workers and ministers from all the temptations of the devil and its demons; we come against all that in the name of Jesus. Lord we commit ourselves to walk before you in holiness in accordance to your will and plan for us. Lord lead us to help people who are in sin and bondages and are looking for help from you to be delivered. Lord enable us to clean those who are lepros. Lord refill us once again with the Holy Spirit, and lead us and enable us to reach new people, making new disciples and training new workers, and to plant new Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord I pray for more people to be water baptized, and receives the Holy Spirit baptism. Lord bless and increase all our ministries, and prepare us for your coming that we will go with you when you come to take us. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

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