

Now That We Have This New Nature, What Are We to Do with It? – Part 2

Humility: The Foundation for Surrender, Submission, and Rest in the Spirit

1. Brief recap from last meeting; we discussed...

- We dove deep into **Justification, Sanctification & Glorification**.
 - Justification: Past tense, has happened for the believer.
 - Sanctification: Past tense and is ongoing, it has happened for the believer and is happening; an ongoing process. Have been made holy and are being made holy.
 - Glorification: Future, will happen for the believer. New bodies, eternity in Heaven.
- This is important to keep in mind as we dive into what the believer is supposed to be doing with their new nature. How can we be walking out this newness of life? How do we, as it says in **Gal. 5:16 (NKJV/AMPC)** "Walk in the Spirit" / "...walk and live [habitually] in the [Holy] Spirit [responsive to and controlled and guided by the Spirit]"?

2. Walking Out This Newness of Life – (Being teachable, surrendering and submitting)

- a) Let's go over the list of what we (believers) should be doing with all that we have received from Christ again before we start. (See below)
- b) When I started to dive into the long list of things Jesus and the scriptures tells us what we (believers) are to be doing, i.e. how we are to be living, I kept coming back to humility as a starting point. We are to humble ourselves. Pride is something God resists; therefore, we must obliterate it from our lives. Then this took me to being teachable, surrendering and submitting to the Lord and letting Him do His work in us through and by the Holy Spirit.
 - Let's start with humility and then next study we will dig into being teachable, surrendering and submitting to the correction and discipline of the Lord. Walking humbly before our God and others as well as being teachable, surrendering and submitting to the Lord is going to be the foundation that allows us to be victorious with walking out this newness of life.

3. Humility (God resists the proud and gives grace to the humble)

- a) Let's start with God resisting the proud but giving grace to the humble. **1 Pet. 5:5-7; Jam. 4:6-7; Prov. 3:34 (NLT)** – Summation: God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble, therefore Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God and be clothed with humility. Submit to God, resist the devil and he will flee. Notice that in **1 Pet. 5:7** and **Jam. 4:7** above we are given very important instructions regarding walking in newness of life:
 - **1 Pet. 5:7 (AMP)** "casting all your cares [all your anxieties, all your worries, and all your concerns, once and for all] on Him, for He cares about you [with deepest affection, and watches over you very carefully]." – Trusting God requires humility. [non-self-reliant]
 - **Jam. 4:7 (AMP)** "So submit to [the authority of] God. Resist the devil [stand firm against him] and he will flee from you." – Submitting to God requires humility.

➤ Side note: Number 7 symbolizes completion or perfection. ☺

b) **1 Pet. 5:6 (KJV)** “Humble yourselves”

Strong's NT Greek 5013. Ταπεινώω (tap-i-no'-o) – a verb, used as an action word.

- Definition: To make low, to humble. For the believer, showing humility, true lowness, happens by being fully dependent on the Lord – dismissing reliance upon self (self-government) and emptying carnal ego (fleshly pride). This exalts the Lord as our all-in-all and prompts the gift of His fullness in us. I.e., The partaking of His divine nature as mentioned in **2 Pet. 1:4 (NKJV)** “*That we may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.*” For more context, let’s read **2 Pet. 1:2-9 (ESV/NKJV/AMPC)**. (* See **2 Pet. 1:5-9** commentary below).

c) Let’s go back to **1 Pet. 1:3** and tie in **Eph. 1:3** “God has given us everything we need for living a godly life”. Notice how they are both **vs. 1:3** ref. an interesting connection.

2 Pet. 1:3 (NLT) – “*Through faith in Christ we have received everything we need for living a godly life by the Holy Spirit.*”

d) **Eph. 1:3 (NLT)** – “*Because we are united with Christ we have been blessed with every spiritual blessing in the Heavenly realms.*” We believers become united with Christ at salvation when we believe. (See **Gal. 3**) Being filled with the Holy Spirit at salvation is what allows this union to take place.

- As a result of being filled with the Holy Spirit, the believer has everything they need for living a godly life. Let’s read **2 Pet. 1:5-9 (NKJV/AMPC/ESV)**. We can see that there are seven “qualities, virtues or elements of holiness.” We are to add to our faith (**virtue, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, Godliness, brotherly kindness, love**), of which we are to make every effort to supplement to our faith. (supplement your faith with...these seven elements of holiness). To sum up the above: “**We are to humble ourselves and make every effort to add these seven elements of holiness to our faith.**”
- This also lines up with **Heb. 12:14** that we discussed in our last study on sanctification. “Continually pursue peace and holiness.” *Make every effort/persue.*

d) Many of the seven elements of holiness listed above from **2 Pet. 1:5-9** are also covered in **Gal. 5:22-23**. I.e. the Fruit of the Spirit (**love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control**) which the Holy Spirit produces in our lives. This also ties into the “process of sanctification” that we spoke of in our last study. Having been made holy and are being made holy; are being conformed into the image of His Son.

- We see in **2 Pet. 1:5-9** that we are told to make every effort to add these seven elements of holiness to our faith and we are told in **Gal. 5:22-23** that the Holy Spirit in us produces this kind of fruit in our lives. When I put these two together, I see that we can achieve this by allowing/letting the Holy spirit do His work in us, thus submitting to the process of sanctification. Being humble ties into this in a big way! Make every effort to submit to the work of the Holy Spirit and let Him produce good fruit in our lives and these seven elements of holiness will be a natural bi-product of submitting to God’s authority in our lives. Bending to His will and letting Him work in us requires humility!

- e) We are also told to make every effort to “enter into His rest” in **Heb. 4:10-11 (NASB/AMPC)**. (*See Heb. 4:11 commentary below).
 - * The key to this rest is faith. ~ Homework: full context **Heb. 4:1-16**.
- f) When reading these three areas of scriptures (**2 Pet. 1:5-9, Gal. 5:22-23, Heb. 4:1-16**) there seems to be a contradiction or a paradox. One says to make every effort to add elements of holiness to your faith, one says the Holy Spirit in us, produces this kind of holiness, and the other says we are to make every effort to “enter into His rest.”
 - o **2 Pet. 1:5-9** - Make every effort to add (virtue, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, Godliness, brotherly kindness, love) to your faith.
 - o **Gal. 5:22-23** - The Holy Spirit in us produces love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. ...If we humble ourselves, submit to, surrender to, and let Him produce this good fruit in our lives! We can resist this process, or we can humble ourselves and let Him do His work in and through us.
 - o **Heb. 4:11** "Make every effort to enter that rest" – This rest will help us achieve this.
- g) Paul tells believers in **Rom. 12:1-2** to “*present their bodies as living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God*” and goes on to say that we should not conform to this world's culture, but rather should be transformed by the renewing of your minds.
 - o Being **humble, surrendering** and **submitting** to the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives is what enables us to be a “living sacrifice.” Let's read through **Rom. 12:1-21 (NKJV/NLT)** for fuller context and see how being humble is essential to achieve what Paul is talking about in this passage. (* See Rom. 12:1 and 12:20 commentaries below)
 - o See also **Rom. 6:11-14 (NKJV/AMPC)**. Specifically, **vs. 13** “*And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.*”
- h) **1 Peter 5:5-7** and **James 4:6-7** both say, “*God opposes and resists the proud but shows favor and grace to the humble*” and both **1 Pet. 5:5-7** and **Jam. 4:6** are referencing **Prov. 3:34**. Let's read through **Prov. 3:34 (NLT/AMP/NASB)**.
 - o I like what NASB brought out using the word “needy” instead of “humble.” To be humble is to be in need, being fully dependent on the Lord. When I am in a state of “not needing” the Lord, not relying on, depending on, and trusting in the Lord, but instead relying on, depending on, and trusting in myself, then I am in pride and God resists and opposes those who are prideful. Life has enough challenges; do I want to add God resisting me to those challenges? NO! **Therefore, humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God and clothe yourself with humility.** The result will be rest for your souls!

e) **Mat. 11:29-30, 18:4, 23:12; Lk. 14:11; Phil. 2:3; Col. 3:12-15; Isa. 66:2; Rom. 13:14 (ESV)**
A summation of these scriptures: For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted, so let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind and humbleness let each esteem others better than himself. Put on love, tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, and longsuffering. Clothe yourself with Christ and make no provision for the flesh! (* See notes on Rom. 13:14 ESV below)

- **Rom. 13:14 (ESV)** "...make no provision for the flesh". How can we make no provision for the flesh? This ties in with **Gal. 5:16 (NKJV)** "I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh." So how do we make no provision for the flesh? The answer is "Walk in the Spirit". Which begs the question: How do we walk in the Spirit?
 - This study aims to answer this question and the answer is: HUMILITY. Humility will allow us to **surrender to** and **submit to** the lord's authority. Humbly **surrendering to** and **submitting to** the Lord's authority will help us **let the holy spirit do his work in and through us**. Being intentional and diligent to cultivate our relationship with Christ with humility will help us have victory with walking in the Spirit and making no provisions for the flesh and the result will be **entering into His rest**.

f) Note on **Mat. 11:28-30 (NASB/NLT)**. Everyone quotes **vs. 30** but **vs. 28-29** ties into our focus here. Jesus was humble, is our example and we should learn from Him. We are to take His yoke upon us and in so doing will find rest for our souls.

g) Bonus scripture. There are rewards for being humble 😊
Prov. 22:4 (AMPC) "The reward of humility and the reverent and worshipful fear of the Lord is riches and honor and life." --- Life abundant! (**Jn. 10:10**).

The last 19 studies have been focused on what we received when we believed in Christ and became a new creation with a new nature. Now we are diving into what we are to do with this new nature. Below is a recap list of what we (believers) should be doing with all that we have received:

Special note:

The ending of my original list is what I ended up starting with to tackle this list. 😊

- We are told to be: Sober-minded, watchful, alert, vigilant and self-disciplined.
- We are told to: Resist the enemy, to stand firm in our faith and to continue in the faith.
- We are told to: Live as children of the light, walk in the light, walk in love, shine brightly and walk in newness of life.
- We are told to: Love one another but to not love this world.
- We are told to: Put on our new nature, put on Christ, and put on the full armor of God.
- We are told to: Clothe ourselves with Christ and humility.
- We are told to: Present our bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God.
- We are told to: Strip off every unnecessary weight and the sin which so easily and cleverly entangles us.
- We are told to: Not be conformed to this world but to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. A renewed mind is a mind acting under the influence of the Holy Spirit.
- We are told to: Look away from all that will distract us, to focus our eyes on Jesus and run with endurance the race God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus and to daily fixing our gaze, attention, and thoughts on God.

These are some of the hard ones:

- We are told to: Do everything without grumbling or arguing so that you may become blameless and pure, 'children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.'
- We are told to: Rejoice at all times, to pray without ceasing and to give thanks in all circumstances.
- We are told to: Be anxious for nothing, to not worry about our life and should cast all our cares on Him because He cares for us. – How much do we trust Jesus with our lives and our families?
- We are told to: Go and make disciples and be ministers of the New Covenant.
- **We are told to: Humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God and be clothed with humility.**
- **We are told to: Make every effort to enter into His rest. Much of what is listed above can come out of this rest.**

Next study will be: **Submitting to the teaching, correction, and discipline of the Lord.**

Don't worry, it's not as bad as it sounds. This will continue our study regarding humbling ourselves, being clothed with humility and entering His rest which has the end result of becoming partakers of His divine nature that we read about in **2 Pet. 1:4.**

Homework:

Read all of **Prov. 3 (NLT/NIV/NASB/AMP.AMPC)** which addresses trusting the Lord.

Heb. 4:1-16 full context “Promised rest for God’s people”. - enter into His rest.

HUMILITY—a prominent Christian grace (**Rom. 12:3; 15:17, 18; 1 Cor. 3:5–7; 2 Cor. 3:5; Phil. 4:11–13**). It is a state of mind well pleasing to God (**1 Pet. 3:4**); it preserves the soul in tranquility (**Ps. 69:32, 33**), and makes us patient under trials (**Job 1:22**).

Christ has set us an example of humility (**Phil. 2:6–8**). We should be led thereto by a remembrance of our sins (**Lam. 3:39**), and by the thought that it is the way to honor (**Prov. 16:18**), and that the greatest promises are made to the humble (**Ps. 147:6; Isa. 57:15; 66:2; 1 Pet. 5:5**). It is a “great paradox in Christianity that it makes humility the avenue to glory.”

M. G. Easton, Illustrated Bible Dictionary and Treasury of Biblical History, Biography, Geography, Doctrine, and Literature (New York: Harper & Brothers, 1893), 340.

James 4

Drawing close to God: vs. 1-10.

Warning against judging others: vs. 11-12.

Warning about self-confidence: vs. 13-17.

1 Peter 1 and 2

A call to Holy Living 1:13 – 2:12

Commentaries:

2 Pet. 1:5-9 Believer's Bible Commentary plus some of my own commentary in *italics*.

1:5 Verses 3 and 4 show that God has given us all that is necessary for the divine life. Because He has, we must be diligent in cultivating it. God does not make us holy against our will or without our involvement. There must be desire, determination, and discipline on our part. *I.e. intentionality on our part to seek first the Kingdom of God.*

In the development of Christian character, Peter assumes faith. After all, he is writing to Christians - to those who have already exercised saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. So he does not tell them to furnish faith; he assumes they already have it.

What is necessary is that faith be supplemented by seven elements of holiness. Not adding these one after the other, but manifesting all the graces all the time. – This ties in with the Holy Spirit producing fruit in our lives. The fruit of the Spirit. Not plural fruits, all of the fruit

Virtue: moral excellence. Spiritual courage before a hostile world, the strength to stand for what is right. Also covered in **Godliness**.

Knowledge: especially the knowledge of truth. This emphasizes the importance of studying the word of God and obeying its sacred precepts. *Self-Control and perseverance to follow what the scriptures are telling us regarding how we are to live regardless of circumstances.* **Brotherly Kindness** identified us to the world as Christ's disciples. “By this all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another” (Jn. 13:34-35). *The “this” mentioned here is the final element of holiness: Love.*

1:6 God calls every Christian to a life of discipline. Someone has defined this as the controlling power of the will under the operation of the Holy Spirit. There must be discipline in prayer, discipline in Bible study, discipline in the use of time, discipline in sacrificial living. - *The Holy Spirit is our helper and we can lean on Him to help us with this discipline. I know personally for me, there are many distractions in life that tend to pull me away from being disciplined. I need the Holy Spirit's help when it comes to discipline.*

1:8 There is either advance or decline in the pathway to discipleship - no standing still. There is strength and security in moving forward, danger and failure in retreat. Failure to persevere in the development of Christian character leads to barrenness, unfruitfulness, blindness, shortsightedness, and forgetfulness.

1:9 The man who lacks the seven virtues has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. The truth of his redemption has lost its grip on him. He is going back in the direction from which he was once rescued.

So we must be diligent in cultivating these seven elements of Holiness.

Heb. 4:11 Believer's Bible commentary plus some of my own commentary in italics.

(Homework: **Heb. 4:1-16** full context "Promised rest for God's people")

The previous verse demonstrates that God's rest is still available. This verse says that diligence is necessary in order to enter that rest. We must be diligent to make sure that our only hope is Christ the Lord. We must diligently resist any temptation merely to profess faith in Him and then to renounce Him in the heat of suffering and persecution. - *This is where perseverance and having faith in God's promises kicks in...*

The Israelites were careless. They treated God's promises lightly. They hankered for Egypt, the land of their bondage. They were not diligent in appropriating God's promises by faith. As a result, they never reached Canaan. (The promised land) - The land of Canaan was promised by God to the descendants of Abraham (Genesis 12:7).

Joshua and Caleb were the two spies who brought back a good report and believed that God would help them succeed. They were the only men from their generation permitted to go into the Promised Land after the time of wandering.

Those who did not believe because there were giants in the land did not enter the promised land because of their unbelief and disobedience. - Faith is required to enter into His rest!

A Living Sacrifice Rom. 12:1-21 - Commentary Critical and Explanatory on the Whole Bible

A living sacrifice to God. "Christians should not feel themselves at liberty to be conformed to the world, if only they avoid what is manifestly sinful; but rather, yielding themselves to the transforming power of the truth as it is in Jesus, they should strive to exhibit before the world an entire renovation of heart and life".

Robert Jamieson, A. R. Fausset, and David Brown, Commentary Critical and Explanatory on the Whole Bible, vol. 2 (Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997), 253.

Rom. 12:20 Bibleref commentary

"Burning coals" is a metaphor for deep anguish. Acts of kindness will increase the guilt, shame, or remorse of our enemy's hostility toward us.

The description of "heaping burning coals" is a reference to Proverbs 25:21–22. In Egypt, there had been a custom to carry a pan of burning coals on one's head as a sign of repentance. Kindness and forgiveness to those who abuse us, ideally, will make them ashamed of themselves, and hopefully bring them to repent. The strongest, most powerful response to persecution and hatred is to love your enemies.