



THE KEYS TO CHRISTIAN LIVING



CalvaryLife
CENTER

Grow Wednesday
The Keys To Christian Living
4/10/24

“Temperance”

2 Peter 1:5-7, *“⁵And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; ⁶And to knowledge **temperance**; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; ⁷And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.”*

Faith is: **Your personal, intimate knowledge of the Person, Identity, and Plan of God, that enables you to discern what He intends to do, so that you can act in harmony with Him.** This is **Revelation** in the Plan of Salvation and it is **Fertility** in the Natural Cycle of Life.

John 8:24, *“I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.”*

Virtue is: **Allowing the Word of God to change your thinking until you come into agreement with God.** This is **Recognition** in the Plan of Salvation. It is the **Planting of Seed** in the Natural Cycle of Life.



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Knowledge is: **Seeking to know more of God and what you must do to benefit from His desire and ability to save you.** This is **Responding** in the Plan of Salvation. It is **Conception** in the Natural Cycle of Life.

Temperance is: **More than mere “self-control,” temperance is a lifestyle or process of bringing your “Self” under the dominion of the Lord Jesus Christ.**

The Parallel in the Natural Cycle of Life is **Gestation**: The process of growth and development which transforms the sustained life in the womb into a life capable of surviving in the outer world, away from the supply of nutrients and protection provided within the womb.

Galatians 4:19, *“My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you,”*

That brings us to step four in the plan of salvation which is **Repentance**. This is where most people start out the process of salvation, but we see that Peter did not start here because we have just seen there is something that comes before this that Peter talked about. Acts 2:38 begins with the phrase, *“Then Peter said unto them, Repent...”* It was then, and only then, and not before then that Peter answered their question. Obviously this was not part of his sermon, but his follow through to their response to his preaching. For there to be the word “then” something had to come before “then.” And that was the preaching about who the Lord Jesus was.

“Then Peter said unto them, Repent...”

There is only one acceptable reason for serving God and that is: Because He is God.



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It is not enough to know that He is God. We must also make Him to be our God in the reality of our daily living.

(1)Therefore, (2)Now, (3)And, (4)Then.

It was **then** that Peter told them to repent! It was after Revelation, after Recognition, and after Responding, and only **Then** that Peter told them to repent! Biblical repentance is not possible until after the **“Therefore”** of verse 36. It’s not possible until after the **“Now”** of verse 37 and until after the **“And”** of verse 37. **“Then,”** and not until “Then” is the command to repent appropriate. **“³⁶Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ. ³⁷Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? ³⁸Then Peter said unto them, Repent,”**

The Way of God:

The fourth principle of the Ways of God is that God intends to transform you to enable you to submit to His plan and purpose and accomplish His will.

The Act of God:

God provides the gift of repentance that will change your heart (the motives that dictate your goals and actions) from selfishness to selflessness.

The Plan of Salvation:

Forsake your sins and commit to obey to the written and preached Word of God.



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Temperance in the Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23)

Fruit = Gentleness: Goodness of heart, kindness. Having an approachable attitude and manner toward others. Responding freely in kindness to the needs and wants of others. Not requiring the “force” to motivate you.

Temperance in The Beatitudes All Eight of Them

Matthew 5:6 - *“Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst (And what are they hungering and thirsting after? After any old thing that they want to? No...) after righteousness: for they shall be filled.”*

In this fourth thing our Basic drives and motives are holy and selfless. They are seeking after righteousness. Remember the Scripture says, *“Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness...”* Here we see a proper repentance.

Temperance in Philippians 4:8

Whatever things are pure: Our thinking is not to be contaminated with impure motivations.

Whatever things are pure: Chaste, modest, innocent, blameless, clear; motives are clean and transparent.

1 Timothy 5:22 - *“Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men’s sins: keep thyself pure.”* Keep yourself pure: no partiality, prefer your brother; avoidance of selfishness



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1 John 3:3 - *“And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.”* Jesus is pure and we are to purify ourselves if we have Hope in us.

Temperance in A Walk in the World

Ephesians 4:17-19(An antithesis to the 8 steps)

1. Vanity of mind: (The root of all your problems)

Not accepting the simple truth of the Revelation of the LORD Jesus Christ. Holding to contrary conceptions of the Godhead through your intellectual and tradition-bound pride.

2. Blindness of heart: (caused by the vanity of your mind.)

Failure to recognize His glory, grace, and Holiness, and hence, your own condition of wretchedness, misery, poverty, blindness, and nakedness by refusing the Revelation.

3. Ignorance: (caused by the blindness of your heart.)

Not knowing the truth and ways of life results from never having been motivated to search the Word of God for the plan of salvation and life.

4. Alienated from the life of God: (through your ignorance.)

The life of God in Christ is selflessness and sacrifice. If you retain ignorance you are an alien, foreign to this attitude, having only selfish motives. Colossians 1:21, *“And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled.”*

Temperance in Holding the Truth in Unrighteousness

Romans 1:19-28(An antithesis to the 8 steps)



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*“²¹Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but **became vain in their imaginations**, and their foolish heart was darkened.”*

1. Revelation: “... when they knew God...”

God has revealed Himself as the only God and Saviour. His absolute unity is visible in and explained by His creation. There is no excuse for not accepting the truth of Jesus Christ as both the only Lord God Almighty and Saviour.

2. Refusal: “... they glorified him not as God,...”

Not giving the Lord Jesus Christ His rightful place as Lord of Lords and King of Kings. Diluting His Revelation by refusing to recognize your depravity. Refusal may take the form of compromising the revelation. Denying His conclusion that all are under Him.

3. Rejection: “... neither were thankful;...”

Not caring that He so graciously provided a plan of salvation, and not diligently searching it out because you refuse to accept Him as the only true God, both Lord and Saviour, and yourself as totally lost in sin. Gratitude demands full responsiveness.

4. Retention: “... but became vain in their imaginations,...”

Believing there is no need to change the very motivations of life. Thinking you can make it as you are or that there is no eternal judgement. Not accepting the revelation causes your refusal to accept your need for salvation and deliverance, which causes you to reject His plan of salvation. The only possible result is getting worse. Change is absolute. No one but God can stay the same. A decision to stay the same results in regression.



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Temperance in Utilizing Grace

James 4:7-11

*"**7**Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. **8**Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. **Cleanse your hands**, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded."*

- 1. Submit yourselves therefore to God:** Fully accept His Revelation without argument or resistance. Depend on His Truth, not your own thinking. This is the key secret to overcoming. It is not to draw upon and use divine power to defeat the enemy, but to open an avenue for God to work on your behalf.
- 2. Resist the devil:** Do not harden your heart in refusing the Revelation and its significance to your life. Recognize that you are not acceptable as you are! Lose pride.
- 3. Draw nigh to God:** Decide to find out everything you need to be able to reach Him and accept His offer of grace. Examine the "road map" diligently to discover the way you should go.
- 4. Cleanse your hands:** Even good deeds done with an evil motive are sin. Man cannot change his own heart, but he can repent of his sins (that which his hands find to do).