

Failure in Your Journey

2 Peter 1:1-11

Introduction

Christians can remain spiritually undeveloped by losing sight of the greatness of their salvation (2 Peter 1:9). Scripture tells us that those who are not seeking spiritual growth have forgotten that they have been purified from past sins. Without the intentional practice of godly characteristics that we add to our faith (2 Peter 1:5-7), the believer simply will not develop a correct perspective that will lead to growth.

We undermine our spiritual growth when we do not prioritize it. If we say we want to grow spiritually but don't do what it takes by prioritizing our spiritual life, the outcome is failure. We can either decide to prioritize our spiritual development or refuse to do so; the choice is up to us.

Our faith must be exercised by the work that we do (James 2:17). Christians risk failure when they are not actively participating in the development of their faith. If a believer simply is not making the effort to grow, growth won't happen. Without the study of God's Word, the believer risks spiritual blindness (not seeing things through spiritual eyes) or spiritual shortsightedness (not keeping a long term view of what matters for eternity.)

If we forget the purpose, purification, or power of the cross, we will not fully experience the Christian life as God meant for us to live it. Forgiveness of our sins and the sacrifice made on Calvary is to be the point of reference for all of life. The motivation for everything we do is a response to the grace that has been extended but we have to do our part to embrace it and grow spiritually.

Getting Started

1. What is your most important take way from today's sermon? Share with your group.
2. After hearing today's sermon, in your own words describe what it means for you to stay focused on the cross.

Let's Get Personal

1. Have you ever lost sight of the importance of your spiritual growth? How do you think that happened?
2. Have you ever lost sight of the cross? What spiritual qualities were you not practicing during that time?
3. Are you failing or succeeding in your spiritual development? Share the reason for your answer with your group.

Take the Next Step

1. Are you surrounded by other people who are making their own spiritual growth a priority? If so, how does that help you in a practical way? If not, write a list of accountability partners you can connect with this week.
2. Is the cross a present reality in your life? How does the cross influence your life choices?
3. Want to dig deeper? Take a look at Galatians 6:14, Galatians 2:20, Hebrews 5:11-14, Acts 10:39-43, 2 Thessalonians 1:3, Ephesians 4, and Hebrews 4:11-16

Renew Your Mind

"For he who lacks these qualities is blind or short-sighted, having forgotten his purification from his former sins."

2 Peter 1:9