The Path to the Divine Nature—Scripture Resources (II Peter 1:5-15)

The Discipleship Formula

"But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." II Peter 1:5-11 NKJV

II Peter 1:5-11

"But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love."

II Peter 1:5-7 NKJV

Add!

- Add to your faith! It is free to get on the team, but it is not without effort that you develop into who God created you to be.
 - "For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus **Christ and Him crucified**... **However**, we speak wisdom among those who are mature, yet not the wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing." I Corinthians 2:2, 6 NKJV
 - "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen... But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for **he who comes to God must believe** that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him." Hebrews 11:1, 6 NKJV
 - "Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and

- trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure." Philippians 2:12-13 NKJV
- "But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works." James 2:18
 NKJV
- ☑ If you want to be a disciple (See Luke 14:25-35)—"So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple." Luke 14:33 NKJV
- "Then He said to them all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him **deny himself**, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me." Luke 9:23 NKJV

<u>✓ Faith—the free gift from Yahweh</u>

- The faith that it takes to believe Y'shua is the son of God, and that He was crucified, buried, and resurrected for you is a FREE GIFT FROM YAHWEH.
 - "For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, **as God**has dealt to each one a measure of faith." Romans
 12:3 NKJV

- "But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."
- Virtue—always the first thing that follows faith and must precede all others, or your coordinates will ALWAYS be off target!
 - We start with knowing what is right in God's eyes before we attempt to add one bit of knowledge. To build upon our faith we must always ask this question first: "What is right to God in this situation?" In other words, what does Yahweh think about this? And **WE CAN** and **SHOULD** know, because: "who has known the mind of the LORD

that he may instruct Him?" But we have the mind of Christ." (I Corinthians 2:16 NKJV) and we are instructed to "cast down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ..." II Corinthians 10:5 NKJV

- Mowledge—is what you need to know in order to act wisely!
 - To do what is right in God's eyes we must fill in the knowledge gap. If you don't you will never hit the right target. What do I need to know? What am I missing? This applies first in the spiritual realm as Paul prays for us by asking that God will give us a spirit of revelation and knowledge.
 - "that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the [1] hope of His calling, what are [2] the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is [3] the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power" Ephesians 1:17-19 NKJV

- "Teach me good judgment and knowledge, For I believe Your commandments." Psalms 119:66 NKJV
- "The **fear** of the LORD is the **beginning of knowledge**,
 But fools despise wisdom and instruction." Proverbs
 1:7 NKJV
- "The heart of the prudent **acquires knowledge**, And the ear of the wise seeks knowledge." Proverbs 18:15 NKJV
- "There is gold and a multitude of rubies, But **the lips of knowledge** are a precious jewel." Proverbs 20:15
 NKJV
- "Because they hated knowledge And did not choose the fear of the LORD," Proverbs 1:29 NKJV
- But once you see the target and you know all you need to do it hit that target, it takes energy and effort to hit it! I can assure you of this, at that point challenges, distractions and difficulties will come. That is why you must always add self-control next.
- **Self-control—don't follow your first impulses and desires!**
 - Self-governance and self-mastery are regular practices for disciples of Christ. Knowing the right thing to do never

- translates into doing the right thing <u>unless</u> you are a regular practicer of self-control.
- "He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty,
 And **he who rules his spirit** than he who takes a city."
 Proverbs 16:32 NKJV
- "Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness...But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law." Galatians 5:19, 22-23 NKJV
- "For a bishop must be blameless, as a steward of God, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but hospitable, a lover of what is good, sober-minded, just, holy, self-controlled, holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict." Titus 1:7-9 NKJV
- "Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to

obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. **Therefore I run thus**: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. But **I discipline my body and bring it into subjection**, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified." I Corinthians 9:24-27 NKJV

"If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons. Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness. Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the

How long does the training take and how long do you practice self-control? The answer...as long as it takes up

been trained by it." Hebrews 12:7-11 NKJV

peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have

- to FOREVER! And that is why God tells us that perseverance comes next!
- Perseverance—doing what is right no matter how hard or how long it takes!
 - Think of perseverance as PERMANENT SELF-CONTROL. You know what is right from God; you know what to do and how to do it; you discipline yourself to do it; and then it just won't happen; the fruit is elusive; the breakthrough absent; then hope starts to fade.
 - "And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart."
 Galatians 6:9 NKJV
 - That is perseverance: permanent, relentless, neverending self control.
 - "Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our

- hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us." Romans 5:1-5 NKJV
- "My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing... Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him." James 1:2-4, 12 NKJV
- "Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." Hebrews 12:1-2 NKJV
- "so that we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations **that you endure**, which is **manifest evidence** of the righteous judgment of

- God, that you may be **counted worthy of the kingdom** of God, for which you also suffer;" II Thessalonians 1:4-5 NKJV
- "Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me."

 Philippians 3:12 NKJV
- When you can arrive at this place in your spiritual life, it translates into all other facets of your life, that's Godliness.

Godliness —let's call this holistic integrity!

- Godliness is spiritual integrity. Your spirit, soul and body are all in complete alignment. This is something that must be practiced.
 - Paul even encouraged us to be sanctified (set-part) in Spirit, soul, and body... "Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole **spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless** at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it." I Thessalonians 5:23-24 NKJV
 - "And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh [physical

- body], Justified in the Spirit [converted spirit], Seen by angels, Preached among the Gentiles, Believed [soul, mind, will] on in the world, Received up in glory." I Timothy 3:16 NKJV
- "Now **godliness** with contentment is great gain." I Timothy 6:6 NKJV
- "But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness." I Timothy 6:11 NKJV
- "If you **instruct the brethren** in these things, you will be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished in the words of faith and of the good doctrine which you have carefully followed. But reject profane and old wives' fables, and **exercise yourself toward godliness**. For bodily exercise profits a little, **but godliness is profitable for all things**, having promise of the **life that now is and of that which is to come**." I Timothy 4:6-8 NKJV
- "Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if

- there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things." Philippians 4:8 NKJV
- "The **integrity** of the upright will guide them, But the perversity of the unfaithful will destroy them."

 Proverbs 11:3 NKJV
- "As for me, You uphold me in my **integrity**, And set me before Your face forever." Psalms 41:12 NKJV
- Once we have alignment, we are ready to pour all this out on others. That is why how we deal with others is next.
- ☑ Brotherly Kindness—It's simple, but not easy...prefer others!
 - A serious disciple of Christ has so much to give others.

 Christian Alert! It's not about you! There is no way to be crafted into the image of Christ without first being able to switch positions. Others first for me first! Leviticus 19, love your neighbor! That is brotherly love at its best!
 - "Then one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying, "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" Jesus said to him, " 'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' [Deut. 6:4] This is the first and great commandment. And the

- second is like it: [*]'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."" Matthew 22:35-40 NKJV
- * "'You shall not hate your brother in your heart. You shall surely rebuke your neighbor, and not bear sin because of him. You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD." Leviticus 19:17-18 NKJV
 - Paul picked up on this! "For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another!" Galatians 5:14-15 NKJV
- Loving your neighbor means you don't turn a blind eye to their sins!
 - "Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back [causing repentance], let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins." James 5:19-20 NKJV

- "And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "love will cover a multitude of sins."" I Peter 4:8 NKJV
- "Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil.

 Cling to what is good. **Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love**, in honor giving

 preference to one another;" Romans 12:9-10 NKJV
- "Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, fulfill my joy by being likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others." Philippians 2:1-4 NKJV
- "But concerning brotherly love you have no need that I should write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another;" I Thessalonians 4:9 NKJV
- "Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another." I John 4:11 NKJV
- "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." Galatians 6:2 NKJV

- "And be **kind to one another**, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you."

 Ephesians 4:32 NKJV
- When you know the heart of God, know what and how to do what He calls you to, have the self-control and self-discipline to do it, no matter how long it takes or how hard it is, and you have become resolute to never give up, and you live your life in perfect alignment with God in all facets, spirit, soul and body, and have arrived at the place where you can, with all honesty say, my life is about others, you are ready to tap the divine nature!

✓ Love—God is love, plain and simple!

- Peter tells us in this very chapter of II Peter that we have the rights to participate in the divine nature. Pause and think about this promise! We can experience God in us! We can have the mind of God and think like God. WE CAN LOVE LIKE GOD! God's nature is love.—God is love. It is the pinnacle of the discipleship model, the goal of the path to the divine nature. It is the full stature and image of Christ which is the ultimate goal and mandate for the existence of the church!
 - "A new commandment I give to you, that you **love one** another; as I have loved you, that you also love one

- **another.** By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."" John 13:34-35 NKJV
- "This is My commandment, that **you love one another as I have loved you.** Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends." John 15:12-13 NKJV
- GOD IS LOVE! "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, **for God is love**. In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God,

God abides in him, and he in God. And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world. There is **no fear in love**; but **perfect love casts out fear**, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. We love Him because He first loved us." I John 4:7-19 NKJV **LOVE IS!** "Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing. Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears

V

all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away. When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known. And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love." I Corinthians 13:1-13 NKJV

[SAME CONTENT AS FOUNDATIONAL TEACHING]

- "For if these things are yours and abound, you will be **neither**barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus

 Christ." II Peter 1:8 NKJV
 - **☑** Neither Barren nor Unfruitful
 - If you do these things! What things?
 - Add to your faith: Virtue, Knowledge, Self-control, Perseverance, Godliness, Brotherly Kindness, Love.

☑ It will alway pay off! It will absolutely bear fruit!

☑ Knowledge of our Lord

- ☑ That fruit is a full and intimate knowing of Y'shua. Why, because He is the divine nature!
- We will become like Him! We will have the mind of Christ!

[ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT TRUTHS IN THE ENTIRE BIBLE IS NEXT! LOCK ONTO IT!]

"For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins." II Peter 1:9 NKJV

✓ Lacks these things...

- Lacks what things?
- Adding to your faith: Virtue, Knowledge, Self-control, Perseverance, Godliness, Brotherly Kindness, Love.

Shortsighted—even totally blind

- You are like a **blind person** if you do not see that this is the work you are called to do once you have received your FREE FAITH!
 - "Therefore, since we have such hope, we use great boldness of speech— unlike Moses, who put a veil over his face so that the children of Israel could not

look steadily at the end of what was passing away. But their minds were blinded. For until this day the same veil remains unlifted in the reading of the Old Testament, because the veil is taken away in Christ." II Corinthians 3:12-14 NKJV

"Give them a veiled heart; Your curse be upon them!

In Your anger, Pursue and destroy them From under the heavens of the LORD." Lamentations 3:65-66 NKJV

✓ Forgotten you were cleansed from his old sins!

- ☑ There is ONE THING that will ruin this process, stop you
 from progressing, and may even stop you from starting.
- Pay attention, this may be the most important thing you will EVER LEARN as a Christian.
- If you forget you were ALREADY cleansed from your past sins, you will not pursue... Adding to your faith: Virtue, Knowledge, Self-control, Perseverance, Godliness, Brotherly Kindness, Love.
- If that happens, all the promises go out the window; your participation in the divine nature, gone!
- You are no longer sinners saved by grace! You are saints!

 At least 16 times you are called that in the NEW

 TESTAMENT. You are no longer a dreadful sinner at the foot of the cross, you are perfect and complete, lacking

nothing. "To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all who in every place call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:" I Corinthians 1:2 NKJV

- ☑ Stop looking back! God doesn't, so why would you!

 Leaving the Past Behind
 - "But Jesus said to him, "No one, having put his hand to the plow, and **looking back**, is fit for the kingdom of God."" Luke 9:62 NKJV
 - "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a **new creation**; **old things have passed away**; behold, all things have become new. Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the **ministry of reconciliation**," II Corinthians 5:17-18 NKJV
 - "But you have not so learned Christ, if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: that you **put off, concerning your former conduct,** the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you **put on the new man**

- which was **created according to God**, in true righteousness and holiness." Ephesians 4:20-24 NKJV
- "He has **delivered us from the power of darkness** and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins." Colossians 1:13-14 NKJV
- "For as the heavens are high above the earth, So great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us. As a father pities his children, So the LORD pities those who fear Him." Psalms 103:11-13 NKJV
- "If You, LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? **But there is forgiveness with You**, That You may be feared." Psalms 130:3-4 NKJV
- ""Do not remember the former things, Nor consider the things of old... "I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake; And I will not remember your sins." Isaiah 43:18, 25 NKJV
- "Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the

- upward call of God in Christ Jesus." Philippians 3:13-14 NKJV
- "O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin." Romans 7:24-25 NKJV
- "knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. For he who has died has been freed from sin." Romans 6:6-7 NKJV

[SAME CONTENT AS FOUNDATIONAL TEACHING]

- "Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." II Peter 1:10-11 NKJV
 - **☑** Diligent to make your election sure!
 - So, live today like you know what you've been promised!

 Your redemption does not depend on it, but your life today does!

☑ Never Stumble

And by the way, what a wonderful safety net we have.

You will never come to a halt if you pursue God as such.

No matter what it looks like at any given time, you will have all that God promises!

■ Abundant Entrance into the Kingdom

☑ The Kingdom—well that means the image and stature of Christ. You will experience that divine nature!

I'm about to die, so...[SAME CONTENT AS FOUNDATIONAL TEACHING]

"For this reason I will not be negligent to **remind you always of these things**, though you know and are established **in the present truth**. Yes, I think it is right, as long as I **am in this tent**, to stir you
up by reminding you, **knowing that shortly I must put off my tent**, **just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me**. Moreover I will be careful
to ensure **that you always have a reminder of these things** after my
decease." II Peter 1:12-15 NKJV

II Peter 1:12-15

"For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth. Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent,

to stir you up by reminding you, knowing that shortly I must put off my tent, just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me.

Moreover I will be careful to ensure that you always have a reminder of these things after my decease." II Peter 1:12-15

NKJV

Reminder of these things—so you ALWAYS have a reminder

- ☑ The single most shocking piece in today's scriptures is
 that none of this is new to his audience.
- Peter is writing this as a reminder to those he's discipled, indicating to us that this was common knowledge of the day.
- ✓ I am simply writing it so you have it in writing forever and so you never forget.
- ☑ Question: why is this not common knowledge today in the church? Why can you interview believers of many years and they don't know these things?
- ✓ How then, if not like this, is the church making disciples?

☑ I'm about to die. I know this because Y'shua said so!

✓ Lastly today we see the inspiration for why Peter is writing these things down now! He is in the very last days of his life. He knows this because the Lord revealed it to him.

- ☑ In essence, II Peter is his last will and testament. What do I want to leave for my loved ones?
- Question: what would you write down for your loved ones in a mere 1500 words if you knew you were about to die?
- And for reference, this Bible study was TWICE THAT LENGTH!

NEXT WEEK

The Prophetic Word Confirmed (II Peter 1:16-21)