

# The Secret to Spiritual Success Pt.2

March 14, 2021

## John 17:3 ESV

**3 And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.**

- *Everything about being a Christian works by a personal, living and growing relationship with God; and nothing, about being a Christian, works without that relationship.*
  - eternal (aiōnios) without beginning and end, that which always has been and always will be
  - life (zōē) the absolute fullness of life that only God possesses
  - know (ginōskō) Jewish idiom for sexual intercourse, relational and experiential intimacy, to learn to know, to become known
- *The secret to spiritual success is a communion with God which is spiritual, alive, interactive, intimate and continual.*
  - *Not knowledge about God, but a relationship of knowing the Person of God.*
  - *Success, not by working harder, achieving more or performing better, but by knowing God in a personal relationship.*

## John 4:14 ESV

**14 [Jesus] "but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."**

- welling (hallomai) to leap, spring, gush

## John 4:23-24 ESV

**23 But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him.**

**24 God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."**

- *Worshipping in spirit means that knowing God:*
  - *does not originate in the mind or intellect*
  - *does not originate in emotion*
- *Worshipping in Truth means we come to Father:*
  - *by the Truth of His Word, not our personal perception of truth*
  - *on His terms, not ours*
  - *seeking His will and His pleasure, not our own*

## 2 Peter 1:1-4 ESV

**1 Simeon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained a faith of equal standing with ours by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:**

**2 May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge [epignōsis] of God and of Jesus our Lord.**

knowledge

- epignōsis (noun) precise and correct knowledge, full discernment

- from epiginosko (verb) to know thoroughly and accurately, to perceive who a person is, to find out, to become fully acquainted with, to understand

## 2 Peter 1:1-4 ESV

3 His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge [epignōsis] of him who called us to his own glory and excellence,

4 by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.

- *This communion with God is a holy intercourse where He gives:*
  - *His holiness for our worldliness*
  - *His purity for our sinfulness*
  - *His strength for our weakness*
  - *His joy for our sorrow*
  - *His hope for our depression*
  - *His healing for our infirmities*

## Character Birthed and Matured by Knowing God

### 2 Peter 1:5-7 ESV

5 For this very reason, make every effort [NASB - applying all diligence] to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge,

6 and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness,

7 and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love.

- *These character traits cannot be humanly manufactured.*
- *“Make every effort” is speaking of priority, not methodology.*
- *“Make every effort” is not trying harder to manufacture within ourselves some pretence of religiosity.*
- *“Make every effort” is presenting ourselves to Him, as living sacrifices, so He can do the work in us that only He can do.*
- *These character traits are birthed and matured by:*
  - *Abiding in relationship*
  - *God’s Word*
  - *God’s chastening*

### John 15:5 ESV

5 I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

### Isaiah 55:11 ESV

11 So shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

Hebrews 12:11 ESV

11 For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

## Why This Character is so Important

- Giving up and turning back is never an option for the Christian.
- These very character traits are required for the Christian to endure to the end. Without them, the Christian will fail.

2 Peter 1:8-11 ESV

**8 For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

- faith, virtue, knowledge, self-control, steadfastness, godliness, brotherly affection, love

**9 For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins.**

**10 Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall.**

**11 For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.**

- If we lack these qualities, does that mean that an entrance will NOT be provided for us?

2 Peter 2:20-22 ESV

20 For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first.

21 For it would have been better for them never to have known the way of righteousness than after knowing it to turn back from the holy commandment delivered to them.

22 What the true proverb says has happened to them: "The dog returns to its own vomit, and the sow, after washing herself, returns to wallow in the mire."

Hebrews 6:4-8 ESV

4 For it is impossible, in the case of those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit,

5 and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come,

6 and then have fallen away, to restore them again to repentance, since they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own harm and holding him up to contempt.

7 For land that has drunk the rain that often falls on it, and produces a crop useful to those for whose sake it is cultivated, receives a blessing from God.

8 But if it bears thorns and thistles, it is worthless and near to being cursed, and its end is to be burned.

## Why Christians Fail and Fall Away

*Mark 4:14-20 ESV*

14 The sower sows the word.

15 And these are the ones along the path, where the word is sown: when they hear, Satan immediately comes and takes away the word that is sown in them.

16 And these are the ones sown on rocky ground: the ones who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy.

17 And they have no root in themselves, but endure for a while; then, when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately they fall away.

18 And others are the ones sown among thorns. They are those who hear the word,

19 but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.

20 But those that were sown on the good soil are the ones who hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold."

*Hebrews 2:1-3 ESV*

1 Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it.

2 For since the message declared by angels proved to be reliable, and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution,

3 how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation?

**2 Peter 1:3 ESV**

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**2 Peter 1:8 ESV**

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