

When Christians Fail

March 21, 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.*

2 Peter 1:2-4 ESV

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

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 (prayer, worship, meditation)
 - 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.

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.

Why Our Knowledge Of God Can Fail

The Twin Disciplines of Abiding and Abstaining Are Not Cultivated and Maintained

John 15:5 ESV

"Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing."

2 Peter 1:3 ESV

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

1 Peter 2:11-12 ESV

11 Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul.

12 Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

Matthew 5:30 ESV

30 And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell.

Not Attending a Church Where God's Word is Taught in Purity

Hosea 4:4-6 ESV

4 Yet let no one contend, and let none accuse, for with you is my contention, O priest.

5 You shall stumble by day; the prophet also shall stumble with you by night; and I will destroy your mother.

6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge; because you have rejected knowledge, I reject you from being a priest to me. And since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.

Acts 20:26-27 ESV

26 Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all,

27 for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God.

1 Thessalonians 2:3-5 ESV

3 For our appeal does not spring from error or impurity or any attempt to deceive,

4 but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not to please man, but to please God who tests our hearts.

5 For we never came with words of flattery, as you know, nor with a pretext for greed--God is witness.

1 Corinthians 1:17 ESV

17 For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

Absence of Christian Friendships of Transparency and Accountability

Hebrews 3:12-14 ESV

12 Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God.

13 But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

14 For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end.

James 5:16 ESV

"Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working."