Daily Devotion #228

**You Must Not Be Indifferent**

**2 Peter 1:5 (NASB)** *“Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith.”*

Some years ago I had a conversation with someone who professed to be a follower of Jesus Christ. We talked about their life and how they came to know Christ as their Lord and Savior. My goal in the conversation was to see if they would be more involved in the work of the church and church life. As I listed the needs the church had at the time, the person said, “Once you have salvation, that is about all you need”. On the one hand that is true, all we need to obtain eternal life is to put our trust in the Lord Jesus. But there is more, not for salvation, but what salvation should and does produce. Salvation produces a desire to serve God also. When the Holy Spirit comes into the heart of anyone, He gives the desire to work for God, not to gain salvation, but to prove it. (James 2:14-26) As Peter is now a few years from his last letter to the saints in Rome, he is also being persecuted - in prison, cold, dark and without much, if any, human support. But yet the Lord gave him this truth to pass on - that even in our darkest hours, our salvation does not end. Again, not that we need to be “more” saved, but salvation produces in us a changed heart that reflects that salvation. That’s where Peter will go in his thoughts next. We will cover that later.

Most believers will agree that they are not to go back to the world and the way the world operates, but once they are born again, they seem to rely more on their righteousness and nothing else, but God has made it clear through Peter and others, that we all are to work diligently to live our lives in every way the Lord wants us to live. Paul said it like this, **Philippians 2:12-13 (NASB)** *“So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.”* And to the church in Colossae Paul wrote, **Colossians 1:28-29 (NASB)** *“We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ. For this purpose also I labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me*.”

Neither time was Paul saying that something needs to be added to our repentance and trust in Christ for salvation. His emphasis is that once you are saved, you must fight your flesh and what lingers in you from your sinful desires. For example, there will be many times when it will be hard to love your neighbor as yourself - something that these saints in Rome would diligently need to strive for. It would not come easy to anyone in those circumstances. It would be challenging for them to hold on to their faith in situations like they faced, when confessing Jesus as Lord would lead to certain death.

Beloved, the Christian life is not easy. The Lord never said it would be easy. In fact, He said the opposite. (John 16:33) There are many challenges to our faith, from within ourselves and from the world, but the mark of every true believe is that they fight and war against the flesh and those who would come against the truth of God - not with clubs and swords or riots, but with love. It is love that is our greatest weapon. Sadly, too many Christians are satisfied with their salvation and don’t get in the fight. They let life go by and think that someone else will do it; someone else will lead the charge spiritually. But that is not what God wants. He wants all of His children to be a part of helping the world see the glorious truth of salvation and how beautiful life is in serving Him. And it starts in the heart - your heart and my heart.

Are you being diligent with your spiritual life? Are you working hard, with the Holy Spirit’s help to overcome the challenges you face, internally and externally? God came to rescue us for eternity (Colossians 1:13), but He also came to rescue us from the internal struggles we face and to give us the heart, the fortitude to share His truth with others. You can’t sit on the sidelines and be a true believer. You must get in the game. Souls are depending on your diligent effort to live what you say you believe. Eternity depends on you doing so.