Daily Devotion #229

**You Are Making a Difference**

**2 Peter 1:6-8 (NASB)**  *“And in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness, and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

As we watch the events of life unfold and the world grow darker in its sinfulness, it is very easy to take on the belief that there is nothing that can be done and to feel like we, as individuals, are not making a difference. After all, we tell ourselves, I’m only one person, what can I do? And Satan loves to oblige us with that incorrect thinking. The truth is that God placed each of us just as He wanted to in this life. It is no accident that you were born to the people you were born to. It is no accident that you live where you do and work where you do or go to school where you do. All of this is part of God’s work in you to use you for His purposes, if you are a follower of Christ Jesus. If you are not a follower of Jesus, you have been on your own, and your life is what it is because of your decisions. But for the true child of God, He has directed your paths even to this point. **Psalm 37:23-24 (NASB)** *“The steps of a man are established by the LORD, And He delights in his way. When he falls, he will not be hurled headlong, Because the LORD is the One who holds his hand*.” There are many other affirming verses of this truth as well.

As Peter is writing to the followers of Christ in Rome, the Holy Spirit is giving him words of truth to encourage their hearts. As you can imagine, to be a follower of Jesus in those days would have felt very much like a pointless attempt. So Peter says that as much as they are to be diligent in their spiritual lives through their faith, (vs 5), they need to add to their faith knowledge. We are to study the Scriptures so we can answer people’s questions when they have them. To that we are to add self-control. The truth of God’s Word in our hearts keeps us from being thrown off course spiritually by all the ungodly things that are heard or taught. Then Peter says that we are to persevere in our walk with God. We are to not give in to the temptations that come. We are to stay focused on the truth. We are to live godly lives. We are to do what we do internally and externally because we follow Christ, because we want to please Him as the priority of our lives. Finally then, we are to express our heart of love that we have for Jesus to others who follow Christ. One of the worst things that can happen to any follower of Christ is to be at odds with another follower of Christ. That becomes a terrible testimony of the our aim to follow Christ.

Notice what Peter says in verse eight – that if we possess these qualities, we will make a difference in the lives of others. We will bear fruit - spiritual fruit that God will use in His own way and His own time. This is a good word for God’s people to hear especially in our day of political and social unrest. The world is more and more angry and frustrated and greater and greater division in both these areas is growing.

The good news is that you and I don’t have to be in political office or be in charge of anything to make a difference. We make a difference by the way we live our lives. When a person’s heart changes by the power of the Holy Spirit, when they receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, they change. They change not only inwardly but outwardly. That person can no longer live their life like they once did. Now they must live everything they believe through their words and their actions.

You and I have been given all we need to make a difference in this world. We may never see it, but if we determine to live according to God’s Word, it will come out in our daily lives. And that will make a difference in someone’s life. Be encouraged Beloved. God is not done with you. He is not finished with why He put you here. Be faithful, be diligent, and live your life for Him, and He will use you in His own way. Give someone around you the hope for this life and for eternity. Share the truth of God’s love with someone today.