

The Surrendered Son

(Sunday, August 25, 1990, AM and PM)

Dr. Roy W. Lawson (various passages)

A. **Confirming our Call to Godliness**

2 Peter 1 – God has given everything needed for life and godliness.

Can we be godly? What does this mean? (Often people look at this in terms of culture - 1 Samuel 16:7.)

What does being holy and godly entail? V. 5-7 Supplement/add – to lavishly equip. You ought to be “life plus” not “life period”.

For spiritual maturity, equip your life with “8 ladder rungs” of

- Faith, commitment, trust in Christ - foundation
- Virtue, moral strength, excellence, goodness that is recognized by others
- Knowledge, practical wisdom, spiritual discernment, making right decisions
- Self-control, with resources to have a mastery of your appetites

- Perseverance, endurance, resolute convictions, not cowardness, not giving up quickly
- Godliness, a person who lives in the fear of God, God-centered person, radiating the presence of God
- Brotherly affection, kindness, peace officers, (1 Peter has this mentioned in every chapter)
- Love, the crown of Christian growth, development, character.

Note: It's impossible to reach the top rung of love until you use the other rungs of the ladder. And don't turn the ladder upside-down and only aim for love or just faith (which has not much maturity, not impactful).

Four reasons these eight (8) are important:

- These keep us from spiritual barrenness, making us fruitful. V. 8
- These will help us avoid spiritual blindness. V. 9
- These will prevent spiritual backsliding. V. 10
- These will help you avoid spiritual bankruptcy. V. 11

With all His commands, He provides all that we need.

- According to His divine power (v. 3). There are no instructions for us to do without power.
- According to His promises, His Word (v. 4)

In summary...

1. Christian holiness is not a matter of experience but rather of character. It is a process.
2. Christian holiness is not by faith only (like justification is). It is by faith and earnest effort.
3. Christian holiness is progressive. It takes time. We keep pressing onwards.
4. Christian holiness is the authentic key to effective service, stability, and clarity.

B. Obedience in Operation

Genesis 22 - Abraham and Isaac (sacrifice) – A message about surrender and commitment.

Eagerness

Earnestness

Effectiveness