

## MINIMUM SPIRITUALITY

### 2 PETER 1:1-4

*Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ: Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.*

#### Introduction:

1. What percentage of responsibility for my spiritual maturity is the Lord's, and how much of it is mine?
2. To say that I alone am responsible for my soul's development is conceit. To say that all the responsibility is the Lord's is an insult to God.
3. I find it humbling, inspiring, and challenging to recognize that the greatest saints who ever lived did not have a bigger Bible than I have. They just knew it better. In fact, they had far less of the Divine revelation.
4. Today we have the complete message of God to man. He has nothing more to say to us. God has no "P.S." to the book of Revelation.
5. Here is a stunning truth from **2 Peter 1:3**. *...as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue...*
6. With all the limitless resources to inherit in this life, why then do we settle for minimum spirituality?
7. 2 Peter 1:3 shatters all our excuses for carnal Christianity and minimum spirituality.

#### I. SINNING IS NOT PERMITTED TO BELIEVERS. **1 John 3:9** *Whoever is born of God does not commit sin.*

- A. Not that it is impossible to sin, but it is, by the blood of Jesus and the indwelling Holy Spirit, possible not to sin. **1 John 4:4** *Greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world.*
- B. God has made it possible for you and me to have victory over the world, the flesh, and the devil.
- C. Here are Jesus' commandments to His own. These are not options but imperatives. With His enabling and our striving, we can leave the playpen in the Spiritual Nursery and go on to maturity. Here are His commands:
  1. *Little children, keep yourselves from idols.* **1 John 5:21**
  2. *Building yourselves up on your most holy faith...* **Jude 20**
  3. *Keep yourselves in the love of God...* **Jude 21**
  4. *Put on the whole armor of God...* **Ephesians 6:11**
  5. *Resist the devil and he will flee from you.* **James 4:7**

#### II. CHRISTIAN MATURITY IS NOT A SUNDAY OPERATION.

- A. Remember, there is no finality to the Christian life this side of eternity. While we are in the flesh we *press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.* **Philippians 3:14**

B. I believe in instant purity, but I do not believe in instant maturity. **cf. 1 John 1:7** *...the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.* **cf. 2 Peter 1:5-8** *But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

C. Do you know what an altar tramp is? It is one who thinks it is easier to go to the altar than to get on the cross. There is no magic in a trip to the altar. You will not grow an inch by walking a few yards to the altar, unless there is total repentance and a holy vow to God that you will not fall into the same hole again.

### III. CHRISTIAN MATURITY LEADS TO CHILDREN OF FAITH.

A. That holy band of “heroes of Faith” in the eleventh chapter of Hebrews staggers me. They had no Bibles,, no millions of DVD.s, no Bible seminars, no daily radio Bible teaching, and no TV evangelists.

B. Yet, what things these saints accomplished was amazing. **Hebrews 11:33-34** *...who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.*

C. These saints of our faith did not get to the heights in one leap. They climbed the steep ascent to Heaven through peril, toil, and pain.

Asked why he was used of the Lord so greatly in China, Hudson Taylor replied, “God had looked long for a man weak enough, and He found me.”

D. Spiritual wisdom does not come with years, neither does spiritual maturity. The key to both is obedience. Whatever He says unto YOU, do it!

#### Conclusion:

1. An insatiable thirst for God will produce an unquenchable love for holiness (as He s holy). resulting in a passion to grow in the grace of God.
2. Remember this: you are just as spiritual as you want to be.