

# LIFESAVERS

A Life Group of the Tusculum Church of Christ  
www.MyLifeSavers.org  
mylifesavers@yahoo.com

## “Pathway to Personal Peace”

July 15, 2007

- (1) Would you rather read the directions before putting something together, or just figure it out as you go?
- (2) Have you ever made a mess of something you tried to put together before you read the directions?

### 2 Peter 1:3-15



- (3) Twice Peter exhorts the reader to give diligence to achieving these qualities. If we do this, what does he say the payoff will be? What warning does Peter give in verse 9 if we do not make every effort to add these qualities to our lives?

Peter is building upon the foundation of our salvation and draws attention to the responsibility and obligation that God places upon every one of His children to be growing and maturing in the life that He has given them. The new life that you receive - the new birth in Christ - is a dynamic, active life, not a static, dead life. It's a life of growth, and it's to be a life of usefulness and productivity for God. We have seen God's work in our salvation and what He has provided for us in that salvation. We have the true knowledge of Him. We know that He gives us everything necessary for a godly life. We have become partakers of His divine nature, which has allowed us to escape the corruption that is in the world. Now, Peter says, for this very reason He places a strong obligation upon us.

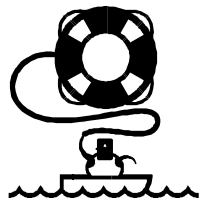
Now, which is it? Are you to work it out or is God going to work it out? God is going to work it out as you apply yourself with all diligence to obeying Him and doing what He instructs you to do. It can only be done in His power. It's His work in you. But you must understand that His work in you depends upon your submission and obedience to Him; otherwise, all of our failures, shortcoming and lack of growth is God's fault, not ours. Some people take the attitude that because He didn't do it, He didn't want it done. That kind of passivism - quietism, as it has been called - is not a Biblical principle. God will do it if you apply yourself totally and completely. But the idea that I sit back and God just does it is the reason there so many Christians who are less than they ought to be. They think, "So God didn't do it, huh? I guess if He had wanted me to do it, He would have motivated me to do it."

We are all looking for strength, strength to live in a competitive, challenging, fast paced world. We are told that to find real power for living, we should look within. We are told that we have all the resources we need

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**“Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, says the Lord of hosts.”  
Zechariah 4:6**





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within us. If we can only muster that inner strength, we will make it across the hurdles of life. Well, I don't know about you, but I have come to the end of my rope more than once. I'm neither pansy nor push over, but when the inner reserves are gone, they are gone. I've been to the place of mental fatigue, physical exhaustion, and emotional collapse. At such times, if someone said to me, look within for the strength you need, my response would have been, I did, and it is all gone. No, at such times, my strength did not come from within, it came from without. Strength came from the Spirit of God. The Bible makes it clear, "Not by might, nor by power, but by My spirit, says the Lord of hosts" (Zechariah 4:6).

You see, our problem is that we don't look to God for the strength to live day by day. We are so self-sufficient and independent; we think it is a show of weakness to pray or to depend upon God. But if there is one thing we need to learn in this life, it is that we are mortal. We are limited in strength. We don't have all the inner power we are led to believe we have. When many people discover, this, they give up on life. Many young people, for example, take their own lives. It is all so needless. Why? There is an unlimited source of power for living. It is not found within. Rather, it is found without. It is found within the living God, Creator of all things. "Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, says the Lord of hosts."

- (4) Do you feel that you have grown in your Christian maturity over the years to the point that you consistently demonstrate the qualities found in I Peter 1:5-11, or do you feel to a great degree like you have been spinning your wheels too much?
- (5) Are you ready to make a deeper commitment to adding these "Christian Graces" in your life in "increasing measure" so that you can be on the pathway to truly experiencing transformation?
- (6) Describe where you are in the development of these qualities.

Faith

Goodness

Knowledge

Self-Control

Patience

Godliness

Kindness

Love

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