

CPFI Annual Meeting June 2021

Living a Life Honoring to God

CPFI Annual Meeting-June 2021

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Salt and Light-Matthew 5: 13-16

“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot”.

“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl.

*Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that **they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven**”.*

CPFI Annual Meeting-June 2021

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- ❖ As followers of Christ, we all desire to honor & glorify God.
- ❖ Wouldn't it be great if everything we did, without exception, brought honor to Him and glory to His Holy Name?

Question:

- ❖ Is it reasonable to expect that over time we can grow spiritually to the point of having no sin? *1 John 1: 8-9*

CPFI Annual Meeting-June 2021

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Answer:

1. The goal of every child of God is to live a life honoring to God.

God commands us to *“Be holy as I am holy”* 1Peter 1: 16

2. 2 Peter 1: 3 says, *“His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and goodness”*

3. Peter goes on in verses 5-8 to list the **steps of spiritual growth** that build upon one another: *“For this reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control perseverance; and to perseverance godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. For if you possess these qualities in increased measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive”*

2 PETER 1: 5-8

LOVE

KINDNESS

GODLINESS

PERSEVERANCE

SELF-CONTROL

KNOWLEDGE

GOODNESS

FAITH



CPFI Annual Meeting-June 2021

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- ❖ Which of the qualities listed in 2 Peter 1: 5-7 do I need to work on? to make every effort to attain??
- ❖ To answer this question, we need to do self-examination, make a diagnosis and put together a plan of action.
- ❖ But first, we need to look at the society we live in today.

CPFI Annual Meeting-June 2021
Living a Life Honoring to God

Nowadays, the society we live in tells us to:

- ❖ Keep your spiritual stuff separate from your daily activities in the secular society.
- ❖ Feel free to practice your faith on Sunday.
- ❖ You can set aside Sundays for worship, family time, relaxation and rest. But Monday through Friday is different, don't go around bothering and offending other people.
- ❖ Keep your faith to yourself, outside the workplace and other daily activities, or else _____ .

CPFI Annual Meeting-June 2021

Living a Life Honoring to God

But the Lord:

- ✓ **Exhorts us** to follow Christ's perfect model of serving, trusting and honoring our "Father *in heaven*" *Matthew 20: 25-28; Colossians 3: 23-24; 1 Corinthians 10: 31*
- ✓ **Promises us** that He, "*The Lord is near to all who call on Him, to all who call on Him in truth.*" *Psalms 145: 18*
- ✓ **Jesus invites us** to, "*Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.*" *Matthew 11: 28*
- ✓ **Charges us** to take Jesus out of the spiritual compartment of our private spiritual life and give Him free reign in ALL our daily actions and relationships.
- ✓ **Helps and supports us:** "*His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and goodness.*" *2 Peter 1: 3*

CPFI Annual Meeting-June 2021
Living a Life Honoring to God

What Must We do?

We need to ask God to help us examine ourselves, make a diagnosis, and put together a plan of action.

“Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”

Psalm 139: 23-24

CPFI Annual Meeting-June 2021

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Examination and Diagnosis *2 Peter 1: 5-7*

- ✓ **My Heart:** Is it a self-serving or a serving heart? Do I love Jesus? Do I seek Him? Would I welcome Jesus in my heart with its current thoughts, desires, plans, and motivation?
- ✓ **My Mind:** What do I fill it with; input? Am I overtaken by anxiety, worry? Do I need transformation by the renewing of mind? *Romans 12: 1-2.*
- ✓ **My Time:** Am I spending time with the Lord in prayer and studying His word?
- ✓ **My Strength & Energy:** Spiritual, emotional and physical: Is the joy of the Lord my strength or is it the happiness from the world and its desires?
- ✓ **My Relationships:** Am I in fellowship with good company?
“Do not be misled: “Bad company corrupts good character.”

1 Corinthians 15: 33-34

CPFI Annual Meeting-June 2021

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Examination & Diagnosis:

- ✓ My Priorities & Lifestyle:
 - Is there anything in my life that takes priority above God?
- ✓ Our Spiritual Growth:
 - Do I have daily time set aside to spend with Him?
 - Do I love Jesus today more than I did yesterday?
 - Do I seek Him with all my heart?
- ✓ Honoring God:
 - What did I do, should do or should have done to bring glory to my Father in heaven?
- ✓ To honor God in our lives we need to reflect on, examine and diagnose the condition of our own lives internally and externally

CPFI Annual Meeting-June 2021

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My Plan of Action

The same prescription for growth in faith that Peter gave ([2 Peter 1:5-11](#)), when applied to our lives, will assure us also a rich reward “*into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ*” ([2 Peter 1:10-11](#)). The foundation for our faith is and always will be the same Word of God that Peter preached. (*Romans 10: 16-17*)

- However, there exists some **obstacles** to our plans

‘Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ² fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God’.

Hebrews 12: 1-2

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Obstacles

- **Things that hinder:** Legitimate stuff that takes 1st place in our lives ahead of God, thus become objects of our worship.
- **The sin that entangles:**
 - ✓ Intimacy with the world.
 - ✓ Drifting away and getting along with the culture thus compromising God's standard (subtle).
 - ✓ Self-sufficiency that relies on own effort = false security.
 - ✓ Ego = pride-full.
 - ✓ Self-preservation.
 - ✓ Grudges & unforgiveness.
 - ✓ Misuse of power.
 - ✓ Love of money ...ETC

Plan of Action

- Identify & throw off:** all the stuff that distracts me from putting God as number 1 object of my worship
- Heavenly Father, with Your help, I Resolve to:**
 - ✓ **Confess** my sins that entangle my walk with You & receive Your forgiveness and cleansing from all unrighteousness
 - ✓ **Love, Trust & Obey You!**
 - ✓ Become **more intimate with You** and Your unconditional love to me.
 - ✓ **Resist** instant gratification of the flesh
 - ✓ **Rid myself** of all pride & to put on humility.
 - ✓ **Practice** compassion and love to all, regardless
 - ✓ **Follow** Christ example of love, patience and forgiveness as I deal with imperfect people like me

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Obstacles

Plan of Action

- **Depending on my own power** in running the race.

- **Losing focus on Jesus, the One who finished the race & set an example of perseverance and endurance**

Heavenly Father, with Your help, I Resolve to:

✓ **Seek Your help** to provide strength, endurance and perseverance each day

✓ **Keep my focus on Christ Jesus** as my model of perseverance in starting and finishing the race ahead of me

CPFI Annual Meeting-June 2021

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Resolutions

- Now Lord: I realize that I should not run the race on empty, but to fill-up daily by spending time with You, in prayer, studying Your word, and seeking the presence of Your glory with me.
- Lord: I will seek your help in enduring the pain and sufferings that come with taking a stand for you.
- Father: Help me make the choice to think and do what is for the benefit of others rather than my self-interest.
- Lord: Give me the ability to consider it a blessing when I face criticism, opposition and insult, and to do so with grace and love.
- Lord Jesus: I desire with all my heart to follow your example in recognizing that my life is about what I give rather than what I get and to move from having a self-serving heart to having a servant heart.

* *Psalm 139: 23-24*

CPFI Annual Meeting-June 2021

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Plan of action: Lord I resolve with your help to:

- Not to run the race on empty, but fill-up daily by spending time with You, in prayer, studying Your word, and seeking the presence of Your glory with me.
- Ask You Lord to provide strength and perseverance for the day.
- Let go of things that hinder or hold me back even though they are not sinful but yet they take 1st place ahead of you, Lord.
- Get rid of the sin that entangles by confessing my sins daily and receive your promise of forgiveness and removal of all unrighteousness
- Get rid of my ego with its pride and fear
- Focus on Christ Jesus as my example of compassion, love, patience and forgiveness as I deal with imperfect people like me.
- Put on

CPFI Annual Meeting-June 2021

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Obstacles We Encounter

- Things that hinder: Legitimate things that we put in God's place as the object of our worship;
- The sin that entangles: when we drift away and go along with the culture thus compromising God's standard.
- Our security in self-sufficiency: when we rely on our own efforts & resources or other sources for our security
- Losing our focus on the One who finished the race, the One who sets an example of perseverance and endurance.
- Losing intimacy with Him and His unconditional love.
- When our egos make us full of pride and self-preservation.