

Anchor of the week: Grateful Purpose

Anchor Verse: II Peter 1:3 seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. (READ SLOWLY)

**"Learn to savor the taste of God's promises."** Vs. 3-10

Application

Spiritual Practice of Self-examination Do you like it? Why or why not?

Taking an honest appraisal of ourselves—**not a comparison!**

List these on your "extra" sheet of paper. Other areas?

*Brian's lesson from Sunday (I Kings 4:1-7) She analyzed what she had realistically and God used it!*

Areas of life to analyze:

Personality—

Birth Order—

Physical range—

Love Language—

Spiritual Gifts--(no one has them all, everyone has one)

"A man never fully knows himself until he is confronted by God." Rhinehold Niebuhr

Scripture:

Are you looking to fulfill an epic calling or a unique calling?

Let's define Christian "calling" (not vocation) **ANCHOR:** II Peter 3:1

- Definition: a strong inner impulse toward a particular course of action especially when accompanied by conviction of divine influence
- It is a responsibility to mature, grow, change
- Not ONLY giftedness—but related to

**Warning**—if the gift becomes more important than the calling it is out of balance and not done in the Spirit; ie: a preacher who likes to be upfront rather than proclaim truth *FYI...teaching is NOT my gift; but we can do things that are not abundant in our skill set. (Giving, show mercy, etc.)*

- Ephesians 4:1-32 ASV
  - His prayer for them (us)
    - The wonder of the plan (lesson 1)
    - His love for us (lesson 1 & 2)
    - His Power (lesson 2)
    - Every spiritual blessing (This week's anchor verse)

To walk in the direction of their calling...right action flows from right doctrine Colossians 1:10

We are called to walk in 4 attitudes:

1. Lowliness—in Christ it is a virtue (service & sacrifice—counter cultural)
2. Meekness—(an animal completely controlled & disciplined) a person’s attitude toward the Word of God James 1:21 and toward other people II Timothy 2:25 Spirit of submissiveness
3. Longsuffering—slowness to avenge wrong; Colossians 3:12
4. Forbearance—bearing one another’s weakness; not ceasing to love one’s neighbor because of those faults in them which offend or displease us; patient self-control; restraint and tolerance; as God is toward us Romans 5:8

All these are only possible in love Ephesians 4:15 & 16

As a result, there will be unity. We will have the mind of Christ (so will other believers) thus producing a unity in the church. V. 3 It is possible to fail at this and we’ll talk about “failures” next week. But we are to walk in an alert manner (with the armor of God) to preserve and pursue unity.

To brings the two parts of this lesson together with a “Rule of Life”. What we know about ourselves and what scripture tells us we are called to.

A. self-examination

B. Walking worthy of our calling

“Rule” not as in a “do and don’t list” that can be broken, but a rule or guiding principle of life (*mission statement*) that shows its priority.

What is ruling your life right now? SOMETHING IS...school schedules? Work? Age? Health? Kids? Why do we need to write it down?

- We can be intentional about living by our rule/rhythm.
- Check it with scripture.
- Practice your rule of life (not perfection) repetition incorporates it into our life
- Use it as a measuring stick to examine our day. (Prayer of examine) Where did you see God at work? Where did you “ignore” your declared rule?

All types: Write your own 😊 Examples:

A song: Life Song by Casting Crowns

A Psalm 16: Read some from book

Photos:

Anachronym:

W-worship because He is worthy  
O-order in my life & practice as He did in creation  
R-read his Word daily  
T-time in prayer  
H-Happiness in contentment  
Y-Yearning for a future glory