Living Hope, a study of 2 Peter

Wk #32: Relentless In Relationship

2 Peter 1:1-9 NKJV

*Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ,*

*To those who have obtained likeprecious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:*

***2****Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord,****3as 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,****4****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.*

***5****But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge,****6****to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness,****7****to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love.****8****For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.****9For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.***

We want you to consider that these trophies are not tools if they are a one off experience.

Chris Davis interaction regarding the trophies and the tools.

This passage is all about relationship and the power of consistent pursuit.

We need to consider being relentless in relationship.

**Relentless** (adj) the definition that I am referencing is "steady and persistent"; the idea of perseverance or consistent

Go back to the tools versus the trophies analogy.

When you are first learning to use the tools, there is naturally a learning curve.

Example: Marriage between a husband and a wife.

Dating/Courtship then marriage........

There is usually much work exerted by men in wooing their woman.

Much effort in the pursuit of your wife.

What happens when you stop pursuing?

What happens when you begin to put in less effort?

It is natural to take the relationship for granted.

It is also natural to become easily distracted by other things or people.

**The other person loses their place on the priority scale.**

Ephesians 5:25-33 NKJV

***25****Husbands, love your wives, just* ***as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,******26****that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word,****27that He might present her to Himself a glorious church****, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.****28****So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself.****29****For no one ever hated his own flesh,* ***but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church****.****30****For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones.****31****“For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.”****32This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.******33****Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.*

Scripture that highlights the bride of Christ (the church) and the bridegroom (Christ)

John 3:27-30

Revelation 22:17

2 Corinthians 11:2

**Just a highlight from scripture and my heart of experience.**

A devoted follower of Jesus as Lord and Savior will develop a deep love for Christ's church. To disdain His church, His body, is not in keeping with the heart of Bridegroom, The Son of the Living God.

* Dull of sight
* Dull of remembrance

 Relentless in your pursuit of your spouse.

If you are not being relentless then you will not see our Lord and you will not remember all that He has done for you.

We must learn to be relentless.

We must pursue being relentless in relationship.

A relentless pursuit proves the reality of a relationship.

**This is not about a perfect consistency but it is about the process of coming back to the pursuit and never giving up. It is about learning to have a steady and persistent pursuit.**

We are all steady and persistent in pursuing something.

What is the focus of your relentless pursuit?

 Money?

 Material possessions/Things?

 Hobbies?

 Success?

 Adrenaline rush?

 Pleasure?

 Popularity?

 Perfection?

Becoming relentless in relationship is all about:

* Learning
* Growing
* Maturing
* Changing

So much in scripture regarding faith, closeness, connection, obedience, and so many other aspects of a growing relationship with the God of the Universe, The Creator of Heaven and Earth.

God wants us to be relentless in our pursuit of Him.

God responds to us trusting Him and seeking Him.