

Wrong Turns on the Road to Change

2 Peter 1

2 Peter 1:3-7 (NIV)

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. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires. For this very 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.

I. Neglecting Your Personal Walk with Christ

Luke 10:39-42 (NIV)

She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!" "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

Jeremiah 2:1-13

The word of the LORD came to me: "Go and proclaim in the hearing of Jerusalem: "'I remember the devotion of your youth, how as a bride you loved me and followed me. ... I brought you into a fertile land to eat its fruit and rich produce. But ... "My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water.

II. Forgetting the Joy and Wonder of Your own Salvation

1 Timothy 1:12-16 (NIV)

I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me faithful, appointing me to his service. Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners — of whom I am the worst. But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life.

III. Ignoring Grace and Depending on Yourself

1 Corinthians 2:3-5 (NIV)

I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling. My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power.

William Gurnall

"Knowing your strength lies wholly in God and not in yourself, remain humble—even when God is blessing you most. God's favor is neither the work of your own hands nor the price of your own worth. How can you boast of that which you did not buy? If you embezzle God's strength and credit it to your own account, He will soon call an audit and take back what was His all along."

IV. Becoming Complacent with What We Have Already Achieved

Joshua 14:10-14 (NIV)

"So here I am today, eighty-five years old! I am still as strong today as the day Moses sent me out; I'm just as vigorous to go out to battle now as I was then. Now give me this hill country that the LORD promised me that day. You yourself heard then that the Anakites were there and their cities were large and fortified, but, the LORD helping me, I will drive them out just as he said." Then Joshua blessed Caleb and gave him Hebron as his inheritance. So Hebron has belonged to Caleb ever since, because he followed the LORD, the God of Israel, wholeheartedly.

V. Losing the Perspective of the Big Picture

Philippians 1:6 (HCSB)

I am sure of this, that He who started a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

Philippians 2:12-13 (HCSB)

"Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God who is working in you, /enabling you/ both to will and to act for His good purpose."

G. Campbell Morgan

"The supreme need in every hour of difficulty and distress is for a fresh vision of God. Seeing Him, all else takes on proper perspective and proportion."