

How to Develop Spiritual Vigilance

September 16, 2018

Live Different
GODLY LIVING IN AN UNGODLY WORLD

Open: On a normal day, how do you decide where to give your attention?

Read: 1 Peter 13-21

Discuss:

1. What do Peter's exhortations to have our minds sober and prepared for action (v. 13a) tell us about the nature of the spiritual life? What are some practical ways for us to remain spiritually alert, as Peter has in mind here?
2. Peter gives three directives for being spiritually focused. The first is to set our hope fully on the grace that will be brought to us at the return of Jesus (v. 13b). What do you think it looks like to do this? Why would this be important for maintaining spiritual focus?
3. Verses 14-16 record Peter's second directive, to "be holy." How would you describe the characteristics of a holy lifestyle? (See *Leviticus 20:22-26*.) What do verses 14-16 indicate should motivate us to pursue holiness? What other godly motives might we have for holy living? What are examples of pursuing a form of holiness from *wrong* motives?
4. Peter's third directive is found in verses 17-19, to conduct ourselves with fear. How should calling on God as "Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds" cause us to conduct ourselves with fear? How does this idea fit with Romans 8:1? How does it compare to 2 Corinthians 5:9-10?
5. In your own words explain why the blood of Christ is precious (v. 19)? How does this truth motivate you to live a more holy life?
6. Verse 20 says that Jesus was manifest for your sake. How does the fact that his life, death and resurrection was ordained before the foundation of the world deepen your faith and joy in God? How do you think the work of Jesus causes us to have faith and hope in God (v. 21)?

Apply: Over time, it is easy to lose our spiritual focus. How will you incorporate Peter's directives here into your life this week?

Pray: Pray that we will be a church family who is faithful to prepare our minds for action and who set our hope fully on the grace that will be brought to us.

1 Peter 1:13-21.

¹³ Therefore, preparing your minds for action and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

¹⁴ As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance,

¹⁵ but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct,

¹⁶ since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."

¹⁷ And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile,

¹⁸ knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold,

¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.

²⁰ He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you

²¹ who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God. *(ESV)*