

# **Gospel Therefore**

## **Gospel Effort**

*Doing What God Won't Do for You*

**2 Peter 1:1-11**

*Grace Fellowship Church, Pastor Brad Bigney, June 3, 2012*

**Justification: what God does FOR us on His own**

**Sanctification: the process of changing to become more like Christ by cooperating with God's Spirit through our Gospel-empowered effort**

### **I. Your Faith Didn't Start with Your Own Effort – It Started with God**

**2 Peter 1:1-11**

#### **v. 1 Your Faith Started with God's Righteousness**

2 Peter 1:1 "To those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ"

#### **v. 3 Your Faith Started with God's Power**

2 Peter 1:3 "As 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"

#### **v. 4 Your Faith Started with God's Promises**

2 Peter 1:4 "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."

### **II. Your Effort's Not Optional – It's Essential**

Because you've been given power and promises, now put forth effort. Not APART from what he's just talked about but BECAUSE of what He's just talked about. Because of God's power and promises that have been given to you... make every effort!

The power and promises of God were never meant to produce lazy Christians. They were meant to put a spring in your step and hope in your heart as you choose to do what God isn't going to do FOR you – fight the good fight of faith.

"So many people fail and become miserable and depressed simply because they have not taken themselves in hand. You will have to do it yourself. It will never be done for you, indeed, nobody else can do it for you... pull yourself together, don't shuffle through your Christian life, walk through it as you should do with vigor, add to it that kind of strength and power. Do not be a languid [*lacking spirit or liveliness*] Christian who always gives the impression that he or she is on the point of swooning and fainting and might fail at any moment." D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones, *Spiritual Depression: Its Causes and Cure*, Pickering and Inglis, 1965

#### **v. 5-7 Your Effort is Commanded**

**2 Peter 1:5** "For this very reason make every effort..."

**Luke 13:24** "Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able."

**Romans 8:13** “For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.”

**1 Corinthians 9:24–27** “<sup>24</sup> Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it... <sup>26</sup> Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. <sup>27</sup> But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.”

**Ephesians 4:22–24** “that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.”

**Ephesians 6:11, 14** “Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil... Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth...”

**Colossians 3:5** “Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.”

**1 Timothy 6:12** “Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.”

#### **v. 8 Your Effort Leads to Changing and Growing**

2 Peter 1:8 “For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

#### **v. 9 Your Effort Proves You’ve Not Lost Sight of the Gospel**

2 Peter 1:9 “For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.”

### **III. Although it’s Essential – Your Effort Can Never Stand on It’s Own**

Two things you need to understand about the pursuit of holiness: (1) You need to work hard, and (2) The Spirit of God and God’s grace has to work in you.

“People do not drift toward holiness. Apart from grace-driven effort, people do not gravitate toward godliness, prayer, obedience to Scripture, faith, and delight in the Lord. We drift toward compromise and call it tolerance; we drift toward disobedience and call it freedom; we drift toward superstition and call it faith. We cherish the indiscipline of lost self-control and call it relaxation; we slouch toward prayerlessness and delude ourselves into thinking we have escaped legalism; we slide toward godlessness and convince ourselves we have been liberated.” -D.A. Carson

**Philippians 3:12-16** *ESV* “<sup>12</sup> Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, *but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.* <sup>13</sup> Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, <sup>14</sup> I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. <sup>15</sup> Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you. <sup>16</sup> Only let us hold true to what we have attained.”

Paul does what he does because of what Christ has already done once and for all... He’s made him His own! That’s why Paul can work as hard as he does and stay focused like he does and endure suffering like he does – because of what Christ has done.

#### **Questions to Consider...**

- What kind of progress are you making in the Christian life?
- Is there any fight to your faith?
- Are you making every effort?

