

Dependence on Christ for Holiness

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I. Introduction.

A. We usually start the Christian life by “making every effort,” but this follows God’s provision. (2 Peter 1:1-7)

B. God has given us everything we need for life and godliness. Peter starts with what God has provided us.

C. It is important that we live the Christian life by what God has given us.

D. We are without excuse if God has given us everything we need for life and godliness.

II. Knowledge of God.

A. Salvation knowledge. (John 17:3; Philippians 3:8)

B. Relational knowledge. (Philippians 3)

C. Through our salvation knowledge of God, all that we need has been deposited. Through our relational knowledge of him, we withdraw those resources.

III. We have been made partakers of the divine nature.

A. This is our vital relationship with Jesus also expressed as “in Christ.” (2 Corinthians 5:17)

B. Christians are in an objective vital union with Jesus.

C. Christians experience this union subjectively by abiding in Christ.

D. To abide in Christ means to remain in him.

E. To appropriate Christ’s resources we must renunciate our own effort and appropriate the gift of God. (Romans 7:14, 18)

IV. Ways Christians try to live the Christian life.

A. By our own will power and discipline.

B. By passively assuming God is going to do everything through us.

C. By partial dependence upon God and partial dependence upon ourselves.

D. By depending upon Jesus Christ—the biblical approach.

Application questions:

1. What kind of things have been made available to us through our relationship to Jesus?

2. What does it mean to be in union with Christ?

3. What are some things that you rely too much on yourself to accomplish? How can you depend more on God in this?
