Six Secrets to the Christian Life

**Introduction** – Summary and Review

Secret #1 – It is the Miracle of Resurrection

Secret #2 – It is the Miracle of Transformation

**Seeing What We Are**

God’s Mirror, the Word, offers us a “picture of our true self”

James 1:22-24

In God’s mirror we see our “natural face” – “natural” is “geneseos” – beginning, origin, birth - (Matt. 1:1)

Context

“Of His own will He **brought us forth** by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.” (James 1:18)

“having been **born again**, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever,” (1 Peter 1:23-24)

“brought forth” means “to give birth”; “to bear”

This is the face of our “spiritual birth”, a gift from the father (1:17a), brought forth by the Word of God, which is God’s instrument to,

1. “bring us forth”; “regenerate” New Life
2. “transform us” into His image; Renewed Life

**The Face of Our Birth** – the new person is without sin – but the physical body still possesses evil within its members; nothing good dwells within.

“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but **Christ lives in me**…” (Galatians 2:20a)

“the life that Christ lives in us – “can only be sinless”

“We know that whoever is born of God **does not sin**; but he who has been born of God keeps himself, and the wicked one does not touch him.”(1 John 5:18)

The new person is the true self, a slave to God, desiring to obey.

The physical body, the flesh, is a slave to sin, and desires to disobey.

We see ourselves and the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ without sin, which leads us to conform to His image.

**Being a “doer of the Word”**

“But **be doers of the word**, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. (James 1:22)

“For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was.” . (James 1:23-24)

An obedient hearer is a hearer and a doer – The forgetful hearer is a hearer only. He does not put into practice what he has heard.

The process of transformation must be followed by an obedient response (1:22)

To be an effective doer we must see the Word as the **Law of Liberty**

The obedient hearer looks into the Word and delights in the commands of the Lord, and sees the Word as the “Law of Liberty”.

“But he who looks into **the perfect law of liberty** and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.” (James 1:25)

The “Spirit is Liberty”, where the Spirit is there is liberty.

“His commandment are not “burdensome” (1Jn. 5:3)

“For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And **His commandments are not burdensome**.” (1 John 5:3)

Those who believe we are obligated to keep is commandments see them as a burden.

A intensely desire to keep the Word of God because I…

“have to” - Obligation: “get to” - Liberty:

Seeing the commandments as an obligation that we have to keep (get saved, lose it, proof it) leads to Legalism.

**Secret #3** – **The Christian Life is coming to be in experience what we are already in our innermost being.**

**Living in the Light of the Truth**

1 John 1:6-7

“If we say that we have **fellowship** with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. “But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.”

**Fellowship in the Light** – “fellowship” is “koinonia” – Sharing.

Question: How can a perfectly holy God have fellowship with us?

Answer: Imputed Righteousness

“If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us… we make Him [God] a liar.” (1 John 1:8, 10b)

If we walk in the darkness, that is we are not exposed to the Word, sin remains experientially and we cannot have fellowship with the God.

Question: How can a perfectly holy God have fellowship with us when we still have sin?

“But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with oneanother, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son **cleanses us from all sin**.”

“the blood” is the basis of eternal life and the basis of our fellowship with God.

If we walk in light, the sin is removed and we have fellowship with God.

The “Light” exposes sin, we then confess our sin, this results in forgiveness and fellowship.

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to **forgive us our sins** and **to cleanse us from all unrighteousness**.” (1 John 1:9)

Context of 1 John 1:5-10 - Stresses the Importance of Honesty and of Facing Reality

“confession of sin” is “is to say the same thing God says about sin”

**Being Open to God**

When we are open to God, practicing with self-perception, and self-judgment, this will lead to fellowship with God.

Fundamentals of Spiritual Transformation and Christian Growth

“the glory of the Lord”

“the face of our spiritual birth

“the presence of sin in our lives”

If we are not exposing ourselves the Word, it cannot expose our sin, and we deny we have sinned, the result is we will experience no forgiveness, nor fellowship with God, we walk in darkness.

Walking in the light is a fundamental Christian habit, the result is growth in grace.

**Secret #4** – **The Christian life is living with our hearts open to God’s truth.**