

Today, I have two things to share.

First, I want to introduce Julie True music. Julie is known for her “soaking music.” This genre of music consists of gentle melodies sung with soft Spirit-led vocals. I have attached an audio soundtrack from her “Healing Love” album. Soaking music is ideal for entering into God’s presence when *abiding in the Vine* and times of prayer. (During my quiet times, I will often keep a track running on continuous loop for hours at a time.) I will include a different track with the upcoming devotionals. You can access her music on YouTube and her website. Julie is truly a treasure to the body of Christ.

The **second share** comes from a good friend, Tim Kilkenny. Tim recently presented a concept that really made me think.

Tim stated:

The non-believer is naturally inclined to say in his heart:

I will live my life, my way.

The carnal Christian, new Christian or un-discipled Christian says in his heart:

It’s my life but I will *try* to live it His way.

The growing, maturing Christian begins a paradigm shift by realizing that God is first in everything, so his heart now says:

It’s His life, *but in my strength*, I will live it my way.

The mature Christian fully realizes it’s all about Him. So, with a heart yielded completely to God, the mature Christian now says:

I will live His life, His way.

This little teaching is simple but also profound as we meditate on its implication. We also understand from it that every person is at a different level of spiritual growth. As believers, we all need each other so that everyone is brought to maturity in Christ.

I close with my favorite Scripture on Christian living that is a recipe for growing in stature and relationship with God and others. Look closely and you will see that 2 Peter 1:3-11 dovetails with our simple teaching above. Notice also that it starts with understanding “our position in Christ”¹ and ends with an eternal promise that we all seek—“...a grand entrance into the eternal Kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”

3 By His divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know Him, the one who called us to Himself by means of His marvelous glory and excellence. 4 And because of His glory and excellence, He has given us great and precious promises. These are the promises that enable you to share His divine nature and escape the world's corruption caused by human desires.

5 In view of all this, make every effort to respond to God's promises. Supplement your faith with a generous provision of moral excellence, and moral excellence with knowledge, 6 and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with patient endurance, and patient endurance with godliness, 7 and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love for everyone.

8 The more you grow like this, the more productive and useful you will be in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 But those who fail to develop in this way are shortsighted or blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their old sins.

10 So, dear brothers and sisters, work hard to prove that you really are among those God has called and chosen. Do these things, and you will never fall away. 11 Then God will give you a grand entrance into the eternal Kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. 2 Peter 1:3-11 NLT

Powerful!

In Christ, David E. McFadden

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¹ Eph. 1:22-23; Rom. 3:21-27; Col. 1:21-23; Gal. 3:28-29; 2 Tim. 1:19; Rom. 29-31