

# Scripture

## II Peter 1:3-11

Look for our event!



A background image featuring a row of pink tulips in the foreground, with a stone wall or ledge behind them. The scene is softly lit, and the tulips are in various stages of bloom.

# **The Possibility of Change**

## **“Character Counts” - Week Fifteen**

**4/25/2021**

# I. Our Goal is a New Nature - Vs. 3-7

## Our Union with Christ:

***Christ in us*** - “It is no longer I who live but Christ who lives in me” - **Gal. 2:20**

***Christ over us*** - “Christ is faithful over God’s house as a son. And we are His house” - **Heb. 3:6**

***Christ under us*** - “No one can lay a Foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ” - **I Cor. 3:11**



# I. Our Goal is a New Nature - Vs. 3-7

## Our Union with Christ:

***Christ through us*** - “I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me” - **Rom. 15:18**

***Christ on behalf of us*** - “Such is the confidence that we have through Christ toward God” - **II Cor. 3:4**

# **I. Our Goal is a New Nature - Vs. 3-7**

## **Our Union with Christ:**

***Christ on us*** - “For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ” - **Gal. 3:27**

***Christ for us*** - “He always lives to make intercession for them” - **Heb. 7:25**

***Christ by us*** - “The Lord stood by me and strengthened me” - **II Tim. 4:17**

***Christ with us*** - “Lo, I am with you always”  
- **Matthew 28:20**

**Over the past 13 weeks  
we have considered  
another overlapping list:**

*Love*  
*Integrity*  
*Servanthood*  
*Gentleness*  
*Gratitude*  
*Generosity*  
*Forgiveness*  
*Purity*  
*Perseverance*  
*Courage*  
*Self-Control*  
*Hopefulness*

## **II. Our Resource is Divine Power - Vs. 3**

### **Ephesians 1:19-20 -**

Paul prays we may know “What is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places.”

### **III. Our Hope is in Precious Promises - Vs. 4**

#### **Examples:**

He who began a good work in you will continue to perfect it until the day of Christ's return

**- Phil. 1:6**

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me - **Phil. 4:13**



### **III. Our Hope is in Precious Promises - Vs. 4**

#### **Examples:**

My God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus - **Phil. 4:19**

Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, I will help you, surely I will uphold you with my victorious right hand - **Isa. 41:10**

### **III. Our Hope is in Precious Promises - Vs. 4**

#### **Examples:**

He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, will He not also with Him freely give us all things? - **Rom. 8:32**

God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work  
- **II Cor. 9:8.**

“The life you’ve always wanted is already here. Right now. Not next year. Not after you get through this particularly difficult season. Not after your kids reach a certain age. Not after your husband gets his act together, or you’ve gone to counseling, or acquired a college degree, or read the latest self-help book. Here and now you have everything you need.”

~**Mark Buchanan**

## **IV. Our Role is Zeal - Vs. 5**

### **Matthew 11:12 -**

The kingdom of heaven suffers violence, but forceful men and women take it by storm.

### **Colossians 1:29 -**

For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.



## **IV. Our Role is Zeal - Vs. 5**

### **I Corinthians 15:10 -**

But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.

“There is a kind of surrender in the saying that negates or neglects the simple fact that I am called to battle sin...God does not confer scandal-busting grace each morning that I just sit back and receive, hoping it is enough to defeat the day’s sin. Rather, he calls upon me to receive his grace and to be obedient to his Word. He gives the grace to obey. This is not a grace I receive passively, but a grace I act on and act out.”

**~Tim Challies**

## **IV. Our Role is Zeal - Vs. 5**

### **Philippians 2:12-13 -**

Therefore, my beloved as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

# **V. The Result is Human Flourishing**

**- Vs. 8-10**

# **VI. The End is Eternal Life - Vs. 11**

## **II Timothy 4:7-8 -**

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.



# **VII. The Means to Change**

## **A. Resources**

## **B. Relationships**

We need honest voices helping us see the sin in ourselves that we cannot see and to confront us when we need confronting. Indeed, one of the most effective ways to discover our shortcomings is through the perspective and honest sharing—and especially the honest and forthright critique—of others. As Dietrich Bonhoeffer said, “Nothing can be more compassionate than the severe reprimand which calls another Christian in one’s community back from the path of sin.”

**~Scott Sauls, A Gentle Answer**

# **VII. The Means to Change**

## **C. Records**

- 1) What is one way I displayed this character quality today, and hear God's "Well done?"**
- 2) What is one way I failed to live up to this standard, and could do better next time?**