

Friday with Fred – April 7, 2017



Moving Forward or Marking Time?

It seems the news today is laced with Leninism. Russia and its number one Russian is all the talk. Based on Vladimir Lenin and incarnated by Vladimir Putin it feels like the cold war is warming up. As Lenin said concerning time and history; "There are decades when nothing happens and there are weeks when decades happen." The past few weeks have revealed that much has been happening over the past few years. Russia has incarnated Lenin's belief that the march of a radical movement is understood in the formula he articulated in his book, *Three Steps Forward Two Steps Back*. The net gain of One is what counts.

Growing in the Christian life is dependent on the net gain of One step. We all have times and seasons, maybe even decades when we just are not growing in our Christian maturity. There can be a variety of reasons for that. Some are situational, some are sinful. Sometimes we are not sure what it looks like to grow or what maturity in our Christian life would look like.

Allow me to give you three yardsticks by which you can measure your development in your conformity to Christlikeness.

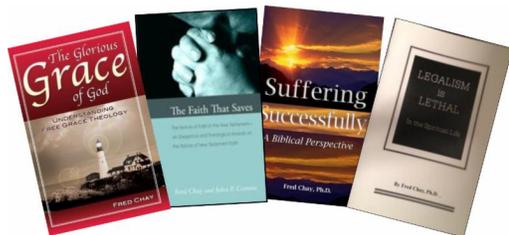
- First, begin by meditating on the evidence of the Spirit filled life by reflecting on the fruit of the Spirit found in Gal. 5:22-23. Do you see this type of attitude and action manifested in your life?
- Second, consider the virtues of victory in 2 Peter 1:5-7. Are you being diligent to add these to your life of faith?
- Third, contemplate on the beatitudes in the Sermon on the Mount in Matt 5:3-16. Are you blessed in that you are living out these realities?

If you are like me this spiritual exercise could lead you to respond by doubling your efforts to reflect more of Christ in your life, but you might be tempted to do it on your own. Not so fast. This is a spiritual barometer and it will take a spiritual activator and a spiritual motivator to accomplish true change devoid of legalistic tendencies. If you truly desire to grow in these areas then: go slow, lay low, and don't blow! Make and take some extended time to meet with the Lord Jesus. Seek to submit yourself to the leading of the Spirit and talk to your heavenly Father about how you feel and what you sense is going on in your life. This might involve some confession of sin! Then ask Him to guide you, lead you, and protect you in growing in Christ likeness that you might glorify the Lord. (Psalm 16:8-9)

You might be saying to yourself - Is it really that simple? Yes it is. Try it... you will like it!

Serving Him with you
Until He comes for us,
Fred

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